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石ノ森章太郎萬画大全集
ISHInoMORI SHOTARO COMPLETE COMIC WORKS

リュウの道 5
THE WAY OF RYU

石森章太郎 ISHIMORI SHOTARO

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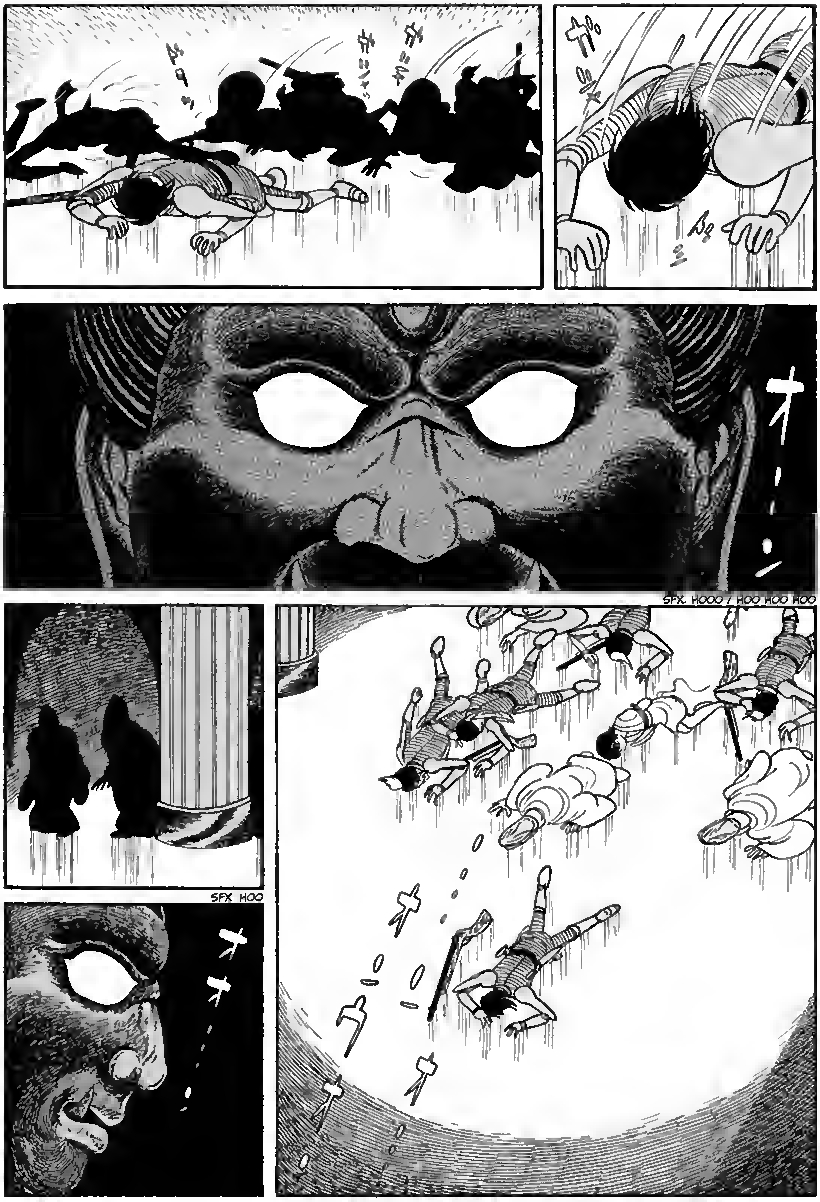
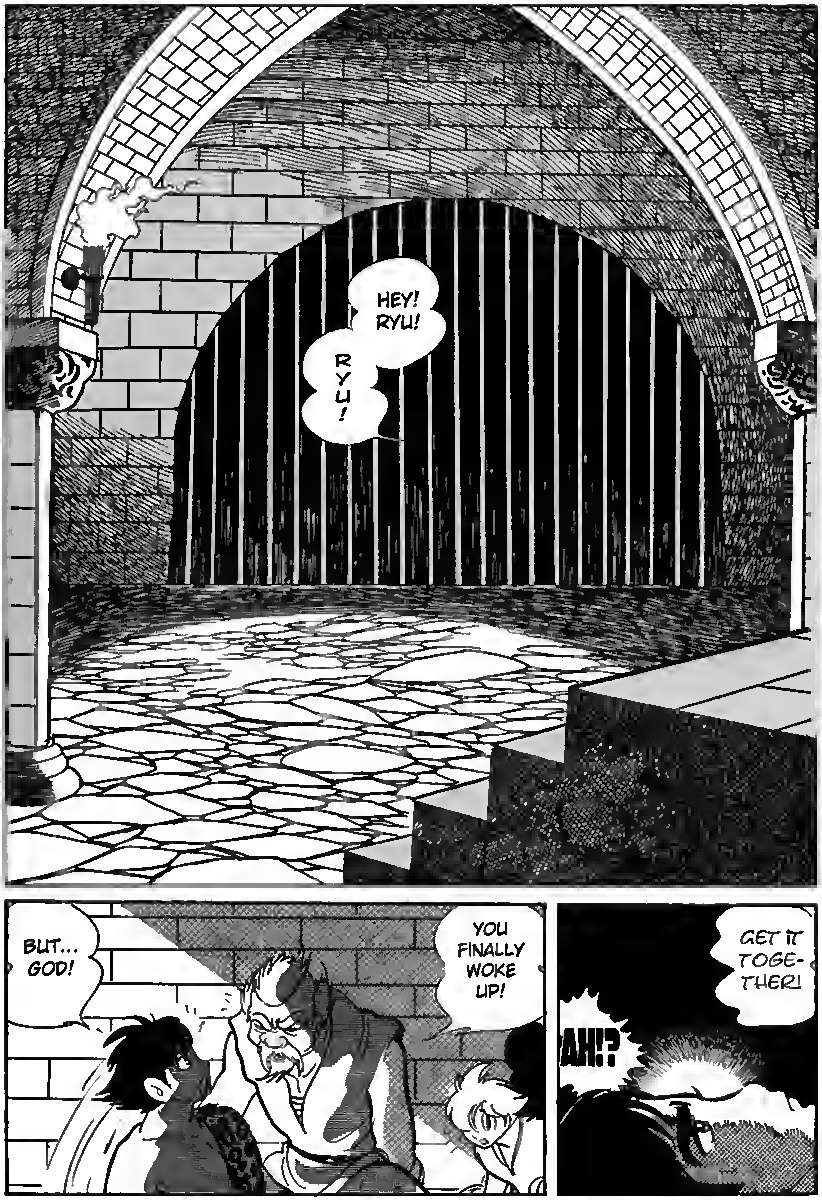
⑳ THE TOWN OF GOD AND THE DEVIL (PART 5)


SFX: HOOO / HOO HOO HOO
SFX: HOO

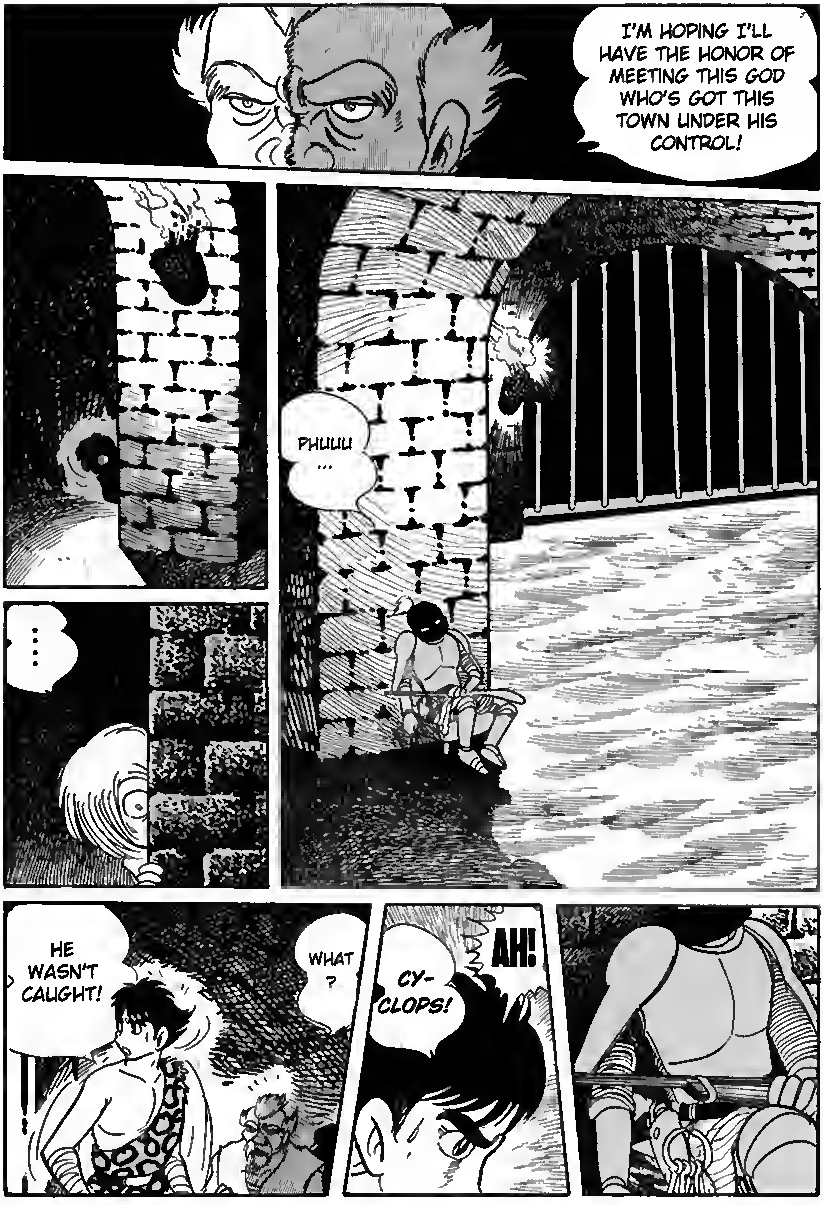
AT YOUR COMMAND!
YES!
I'LL JUDGE THEM TOMORROW.
THROW THESE TRAITORS IN THE DUNGEON.
BRING THE GUARDS!

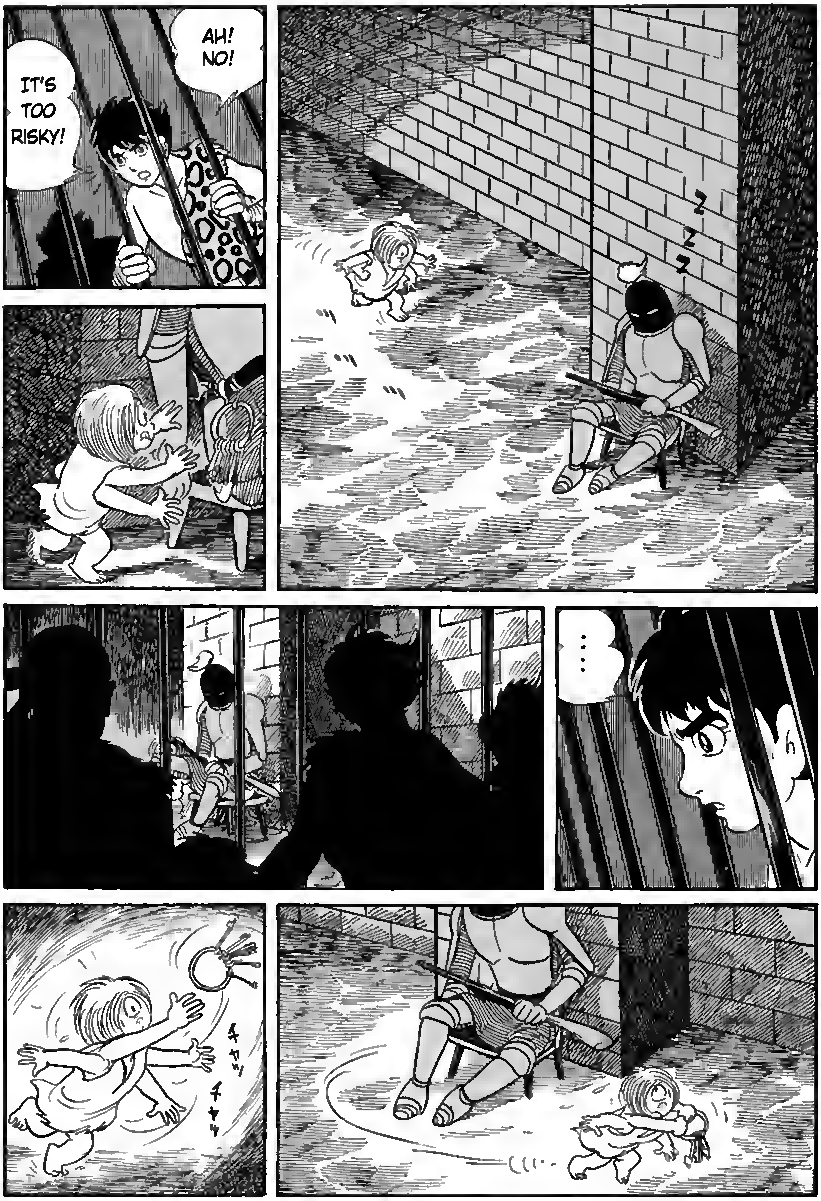

HEY! RYU!
RYU!
BUT... GOD!
YOU FINALLY WOKE UP!
GET IT TOGE-THER!
AH!?

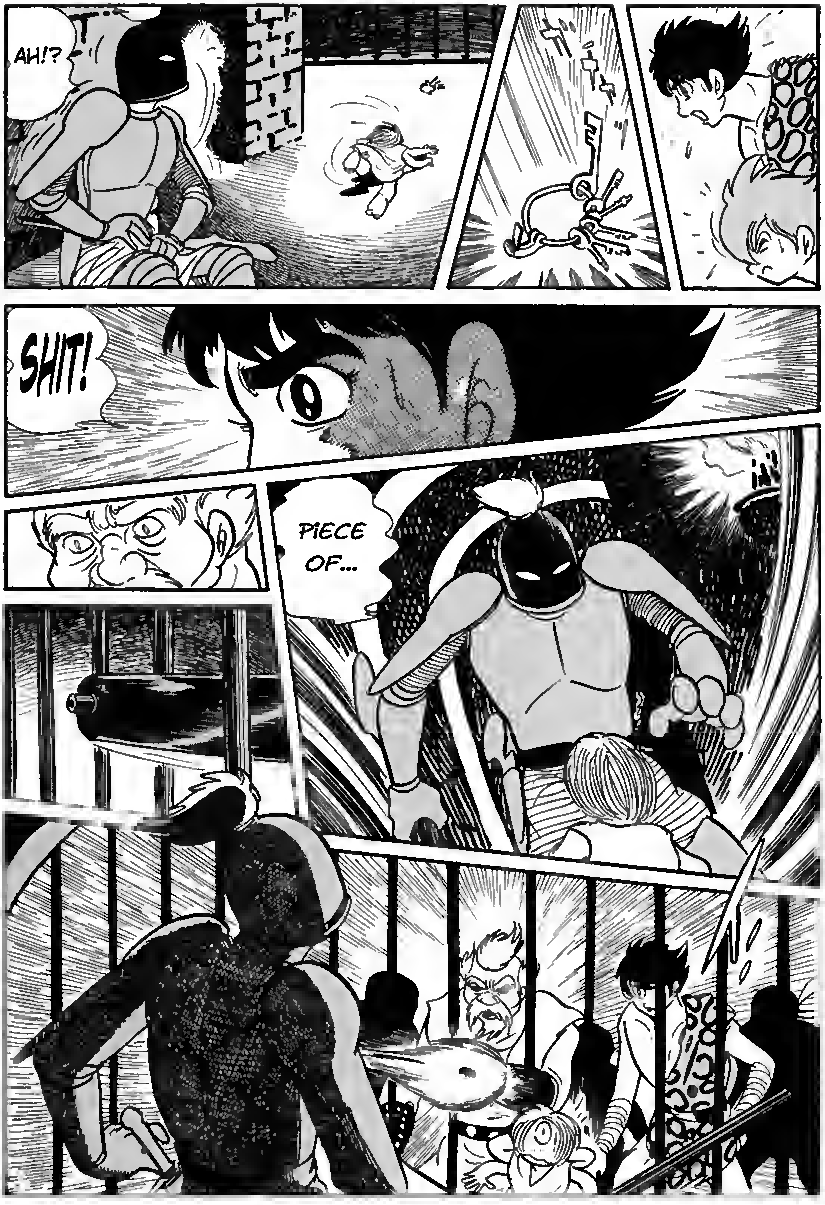
RYU!
WHERE AM I?
IN A CELL.
EVERY-ONE'S HERE.
AH...
PEOPLE FROM THE TOWN, AND A MUTANT FROM THE OUTSIDE.
WHO ARE THEY?
HMM !?
HE'S A MUTANT, SO THEY MUST HAVE TAKEN HIM!
SHIT!
WAS HE WITH YOU?
CY-CLOPS !?
AH!

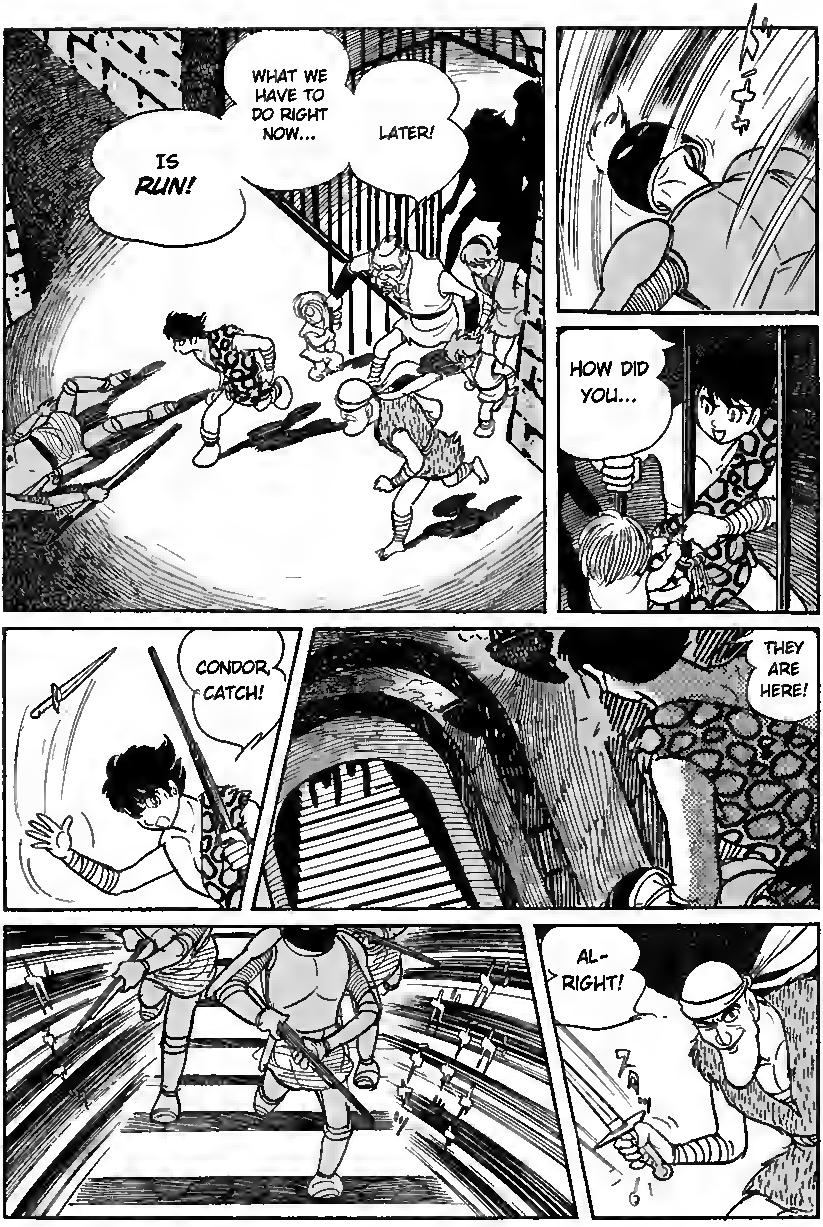
I DON'T KNOW...
TELL ME, LEA...
WHAT KINDS OF TORTURE ARE CAPTURED MUTANTS SUBJECTED TO?
AH...
I ONLY BRING THE BABY MUTANTS OUTSIDE OF TOWN...
YEAH! HE'S PRETTY CLEVER. AND FAST!
CYCLOPS PROBABLY ESCAPED.
CALM DOWN.
GOD, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE, AND QUICK!
DAMN IT!
GOD?
HA HA HA! THAT'S TRUE!
HE HAS FOUR ARMS AND TWO LEGS, SO THAT MAKES SIX LIMBS!
HUH?
HE RUNS WITH ALL SIX LIMBS!

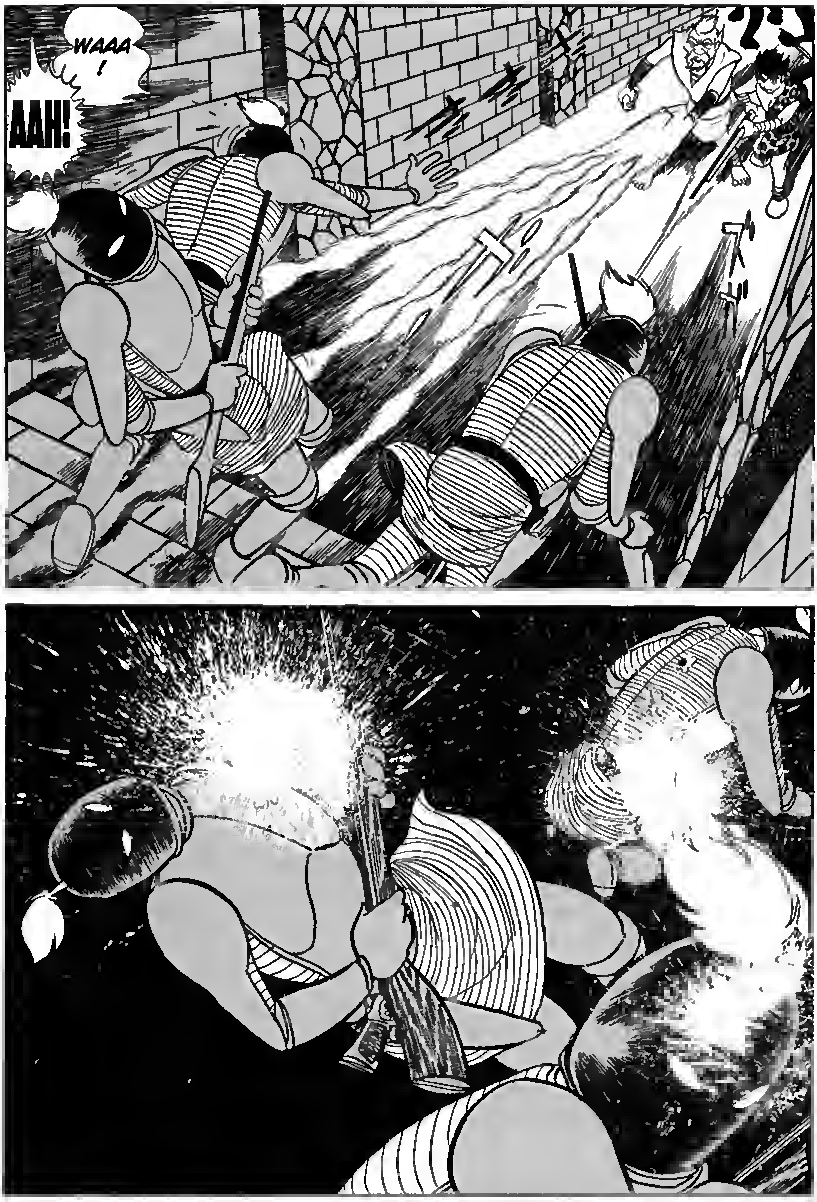
SO WHY?
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
WHERE WOULD I GO AFTER I ESCAPE?
AN-OTHER JOUR-NEY?
YOU'RE RIGHT!
WHO WOULD STAY?
YOU CAN LEAVE PRETTY EASILY...
WITH YOUR STRENGTH ...
LOOK, THERE'S ONLY ONE GUARD. I DON'T SEE ANY OTHERS, DO YOU?
WHAT CONCERNS ME IS...
EVEN IF THEY MIGHT BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT...
MAYBE FIND ANOTHER TOWN INHABITED BY "NORMAL" PEOPLE...
I SEE!
BUT WE CAN FIX THAT...
I COULD NEVER LIVE A LIFE OF STRICT RELIGIOUS RULES.
I WAS ONLY THINKING OF ESCAPING, THAT IDEA NEVER CROSSED MY MIND!
AND MAKE THIS PLACE HABITABLE!
WE STAY...

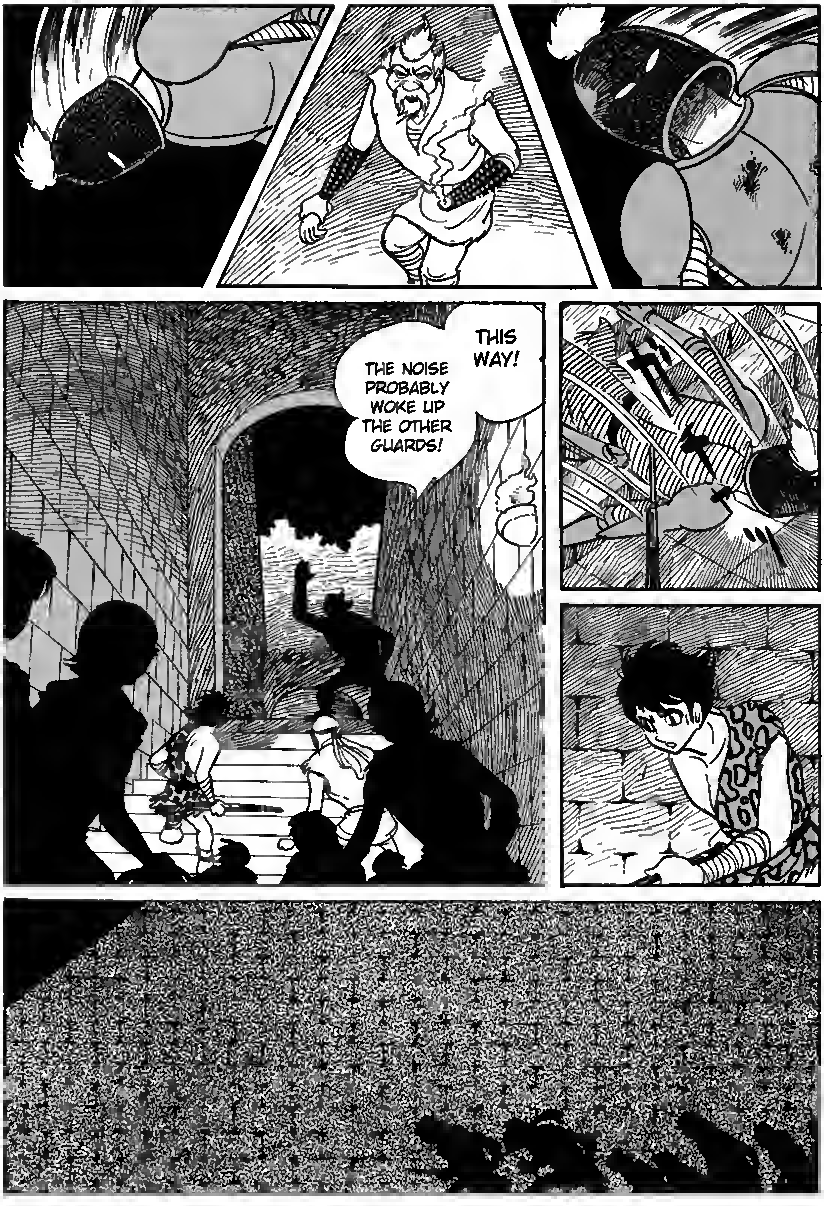

I'M HOPING I'LL HAVE THE HONOR OF MEETING THIS GOD WHO'S GOT THIS TOWN UNDER HIS CONTROL!
PHUUU ...
...
HE WASN'T CAUGHT!
WHAT ?
AH!
CY-CLOPS!

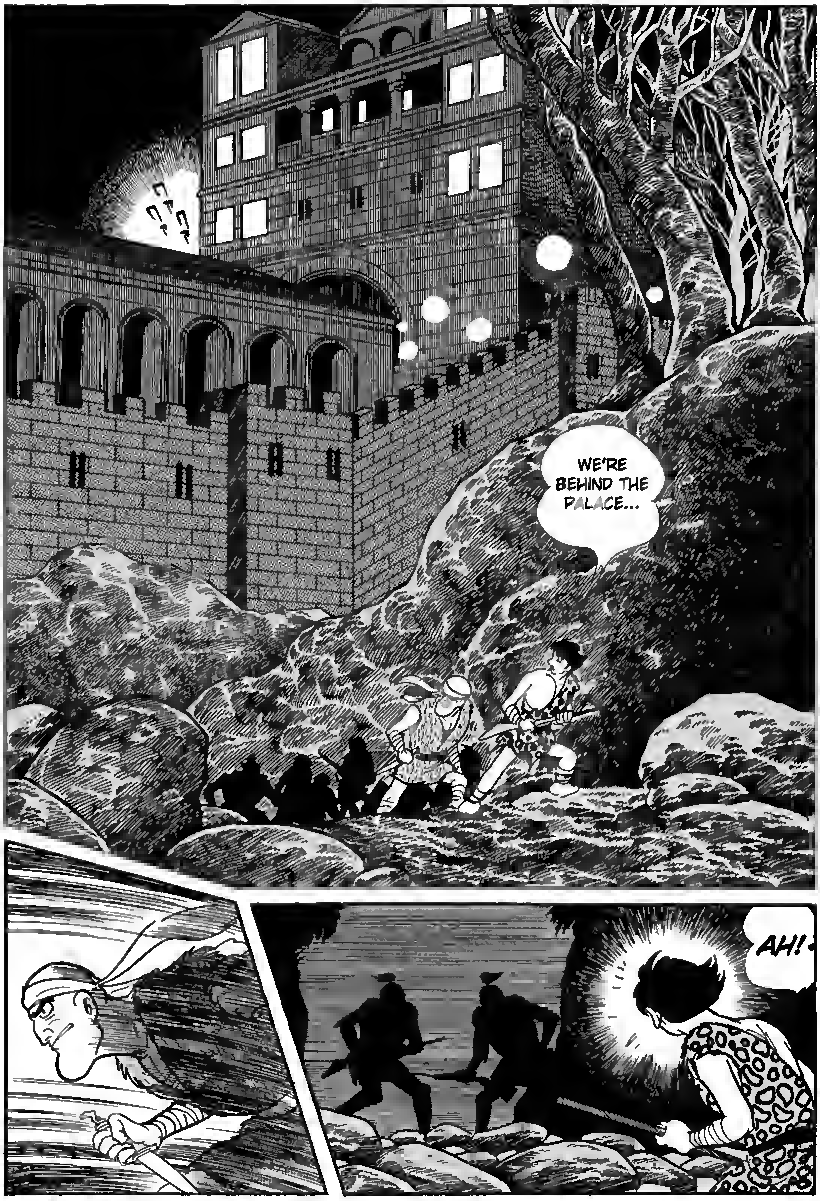

AH! NO!
IT'S TOO RISKY!
Z Z Z
...
ドサッ
イテテ

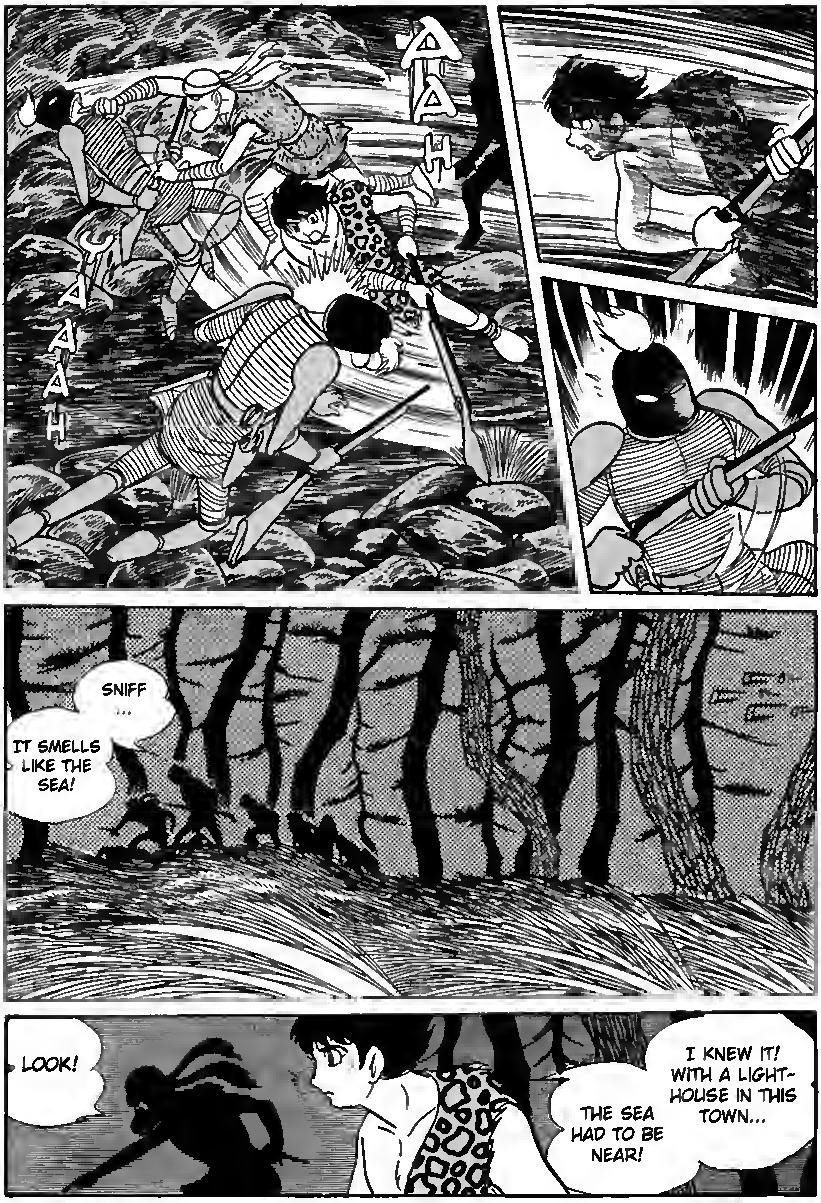

AH!?
SHIT!
PIECE OF...


WHAT WE HAVE TO DO RIGHT NOW...
LATER!
IS RUN!
HOW DID YOU...
CONDOR, CATCH!
THEY ARE HERE!
AL-RIGHT!

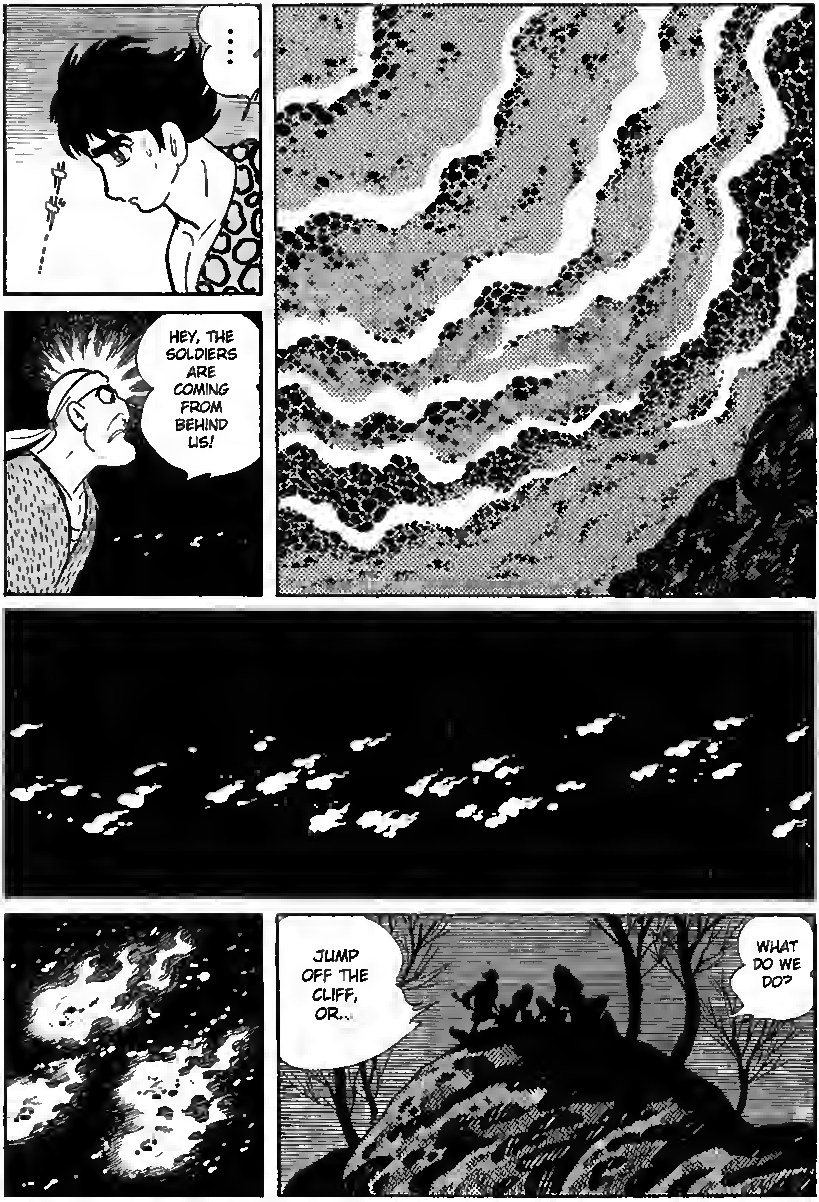

WAAA
!
AAH!

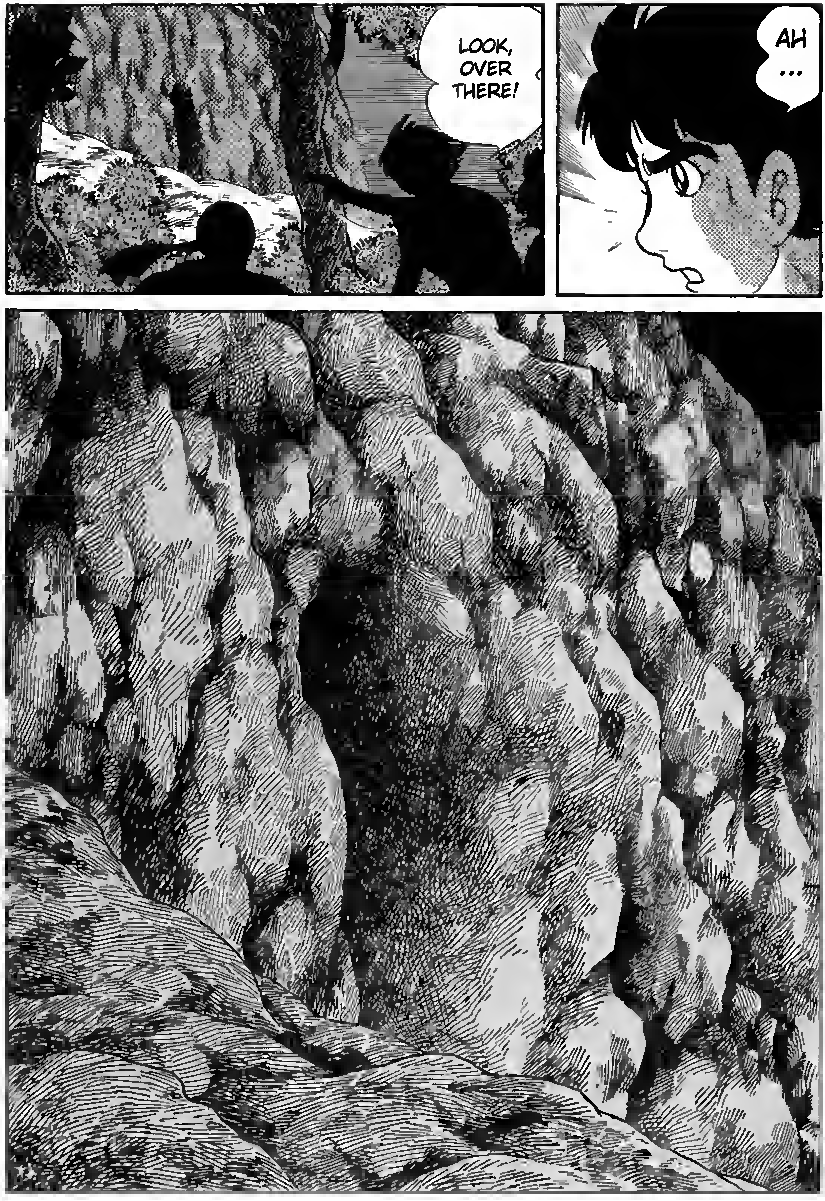

THIS WAY!
THE NOISE PROBABLY WOKE UP THE OTHER GUARDS!

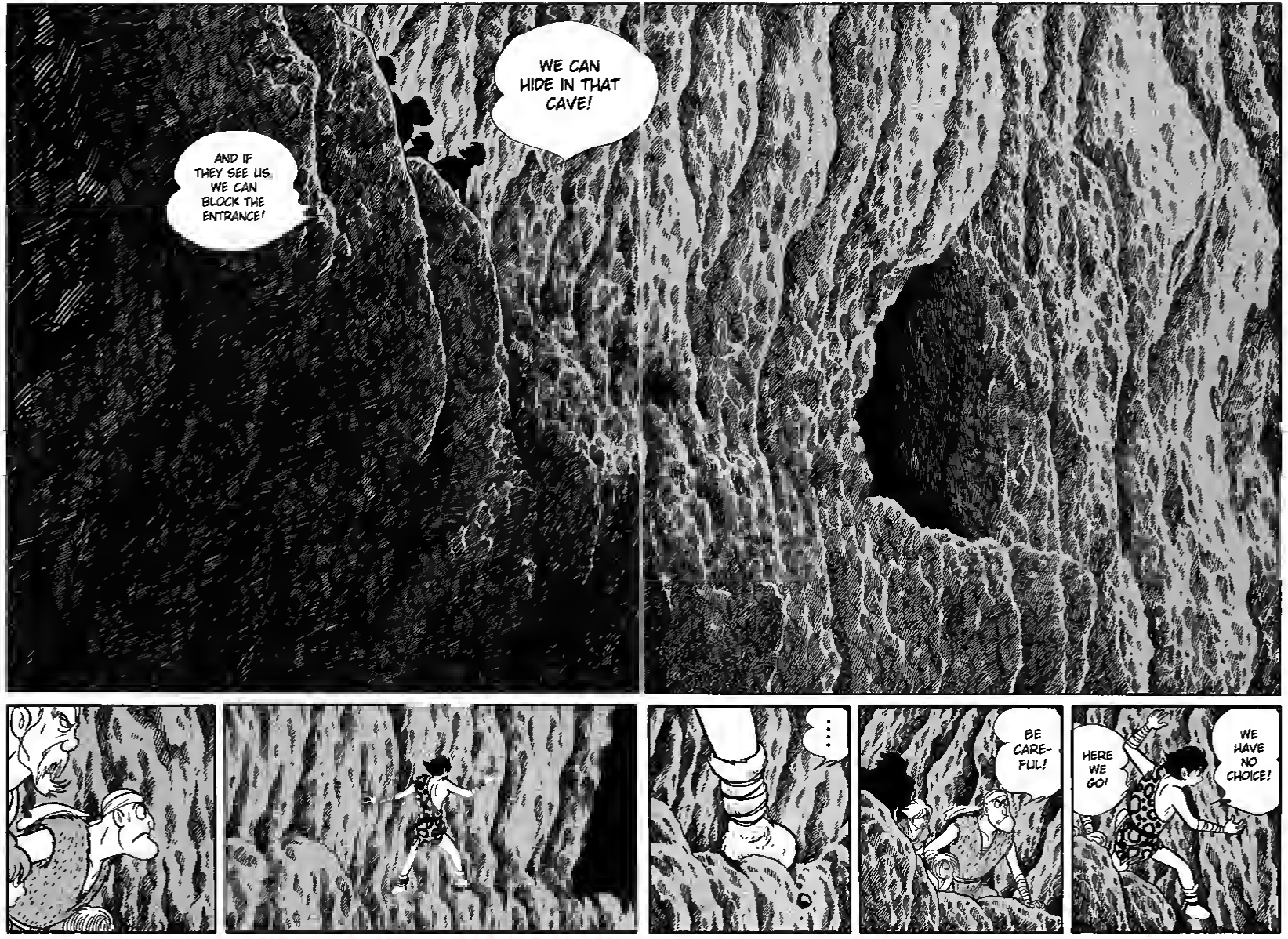

WE'RE BEHIND THE PALACE...
AH!

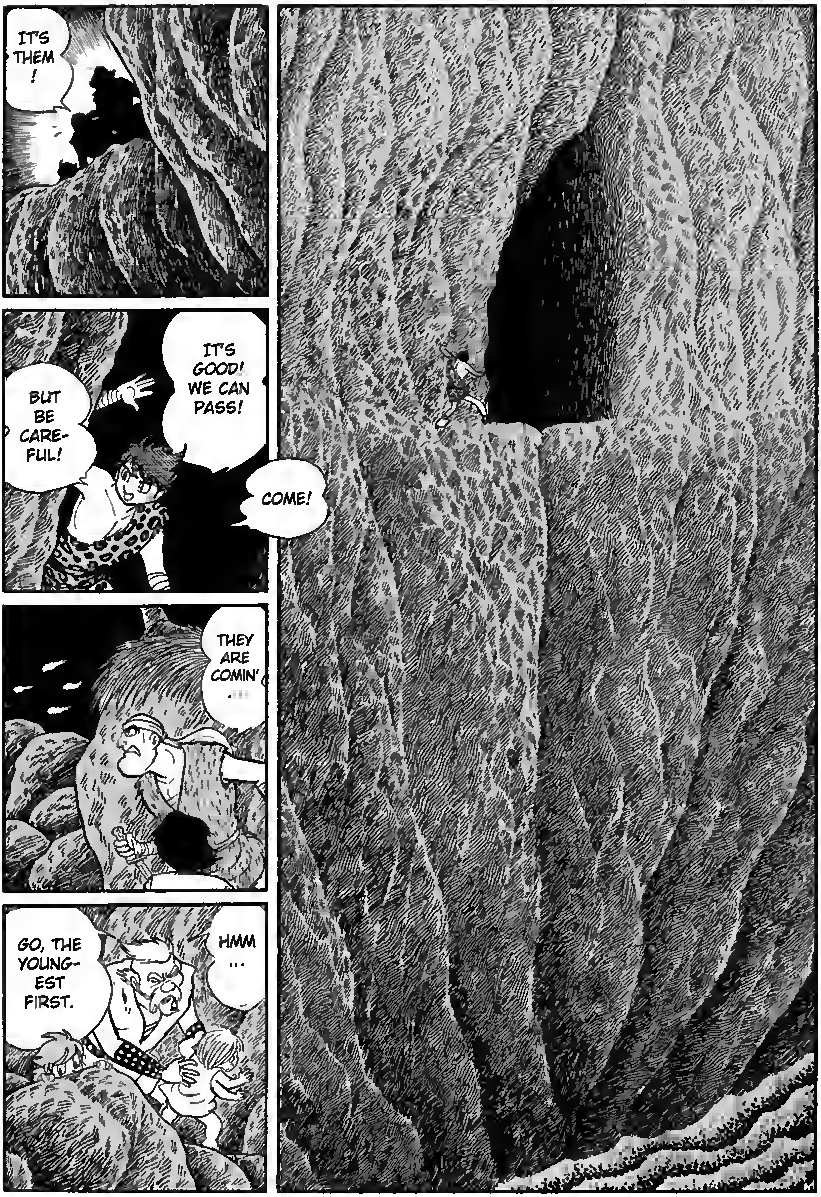

AAH
AAAAH
SNIFF ...
IT SMELLS LIKE THE SEA!
LOOK!
THE SEA HAD TO BE NEAR!
I KNEW IT! WITH A LIGHT-HOUSE IN THIS TOWN...

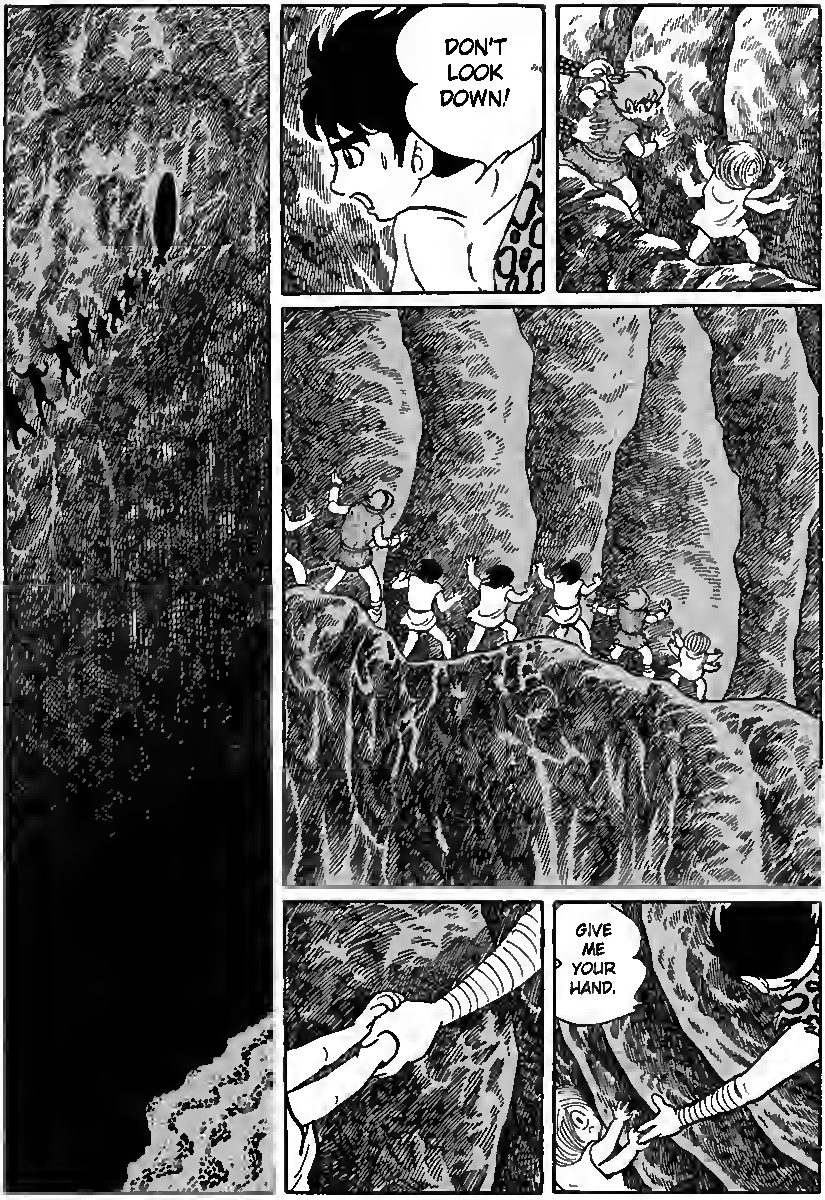
A CLIFF!
AND THE SEA!

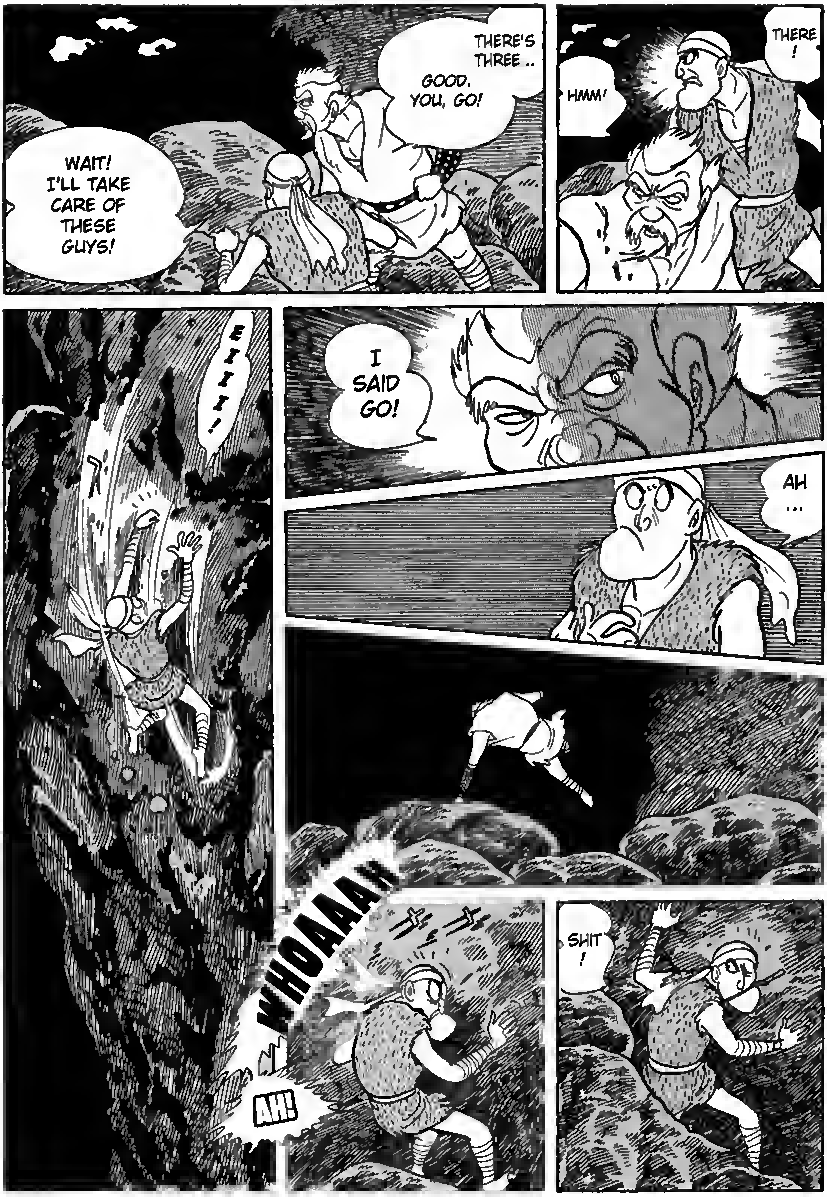

...
HEY, THE SOLDIERS ARE COMING FROM BEHIND US!
JUMP OFF THE CLIFF, OR...
WHAT DO WE DO?

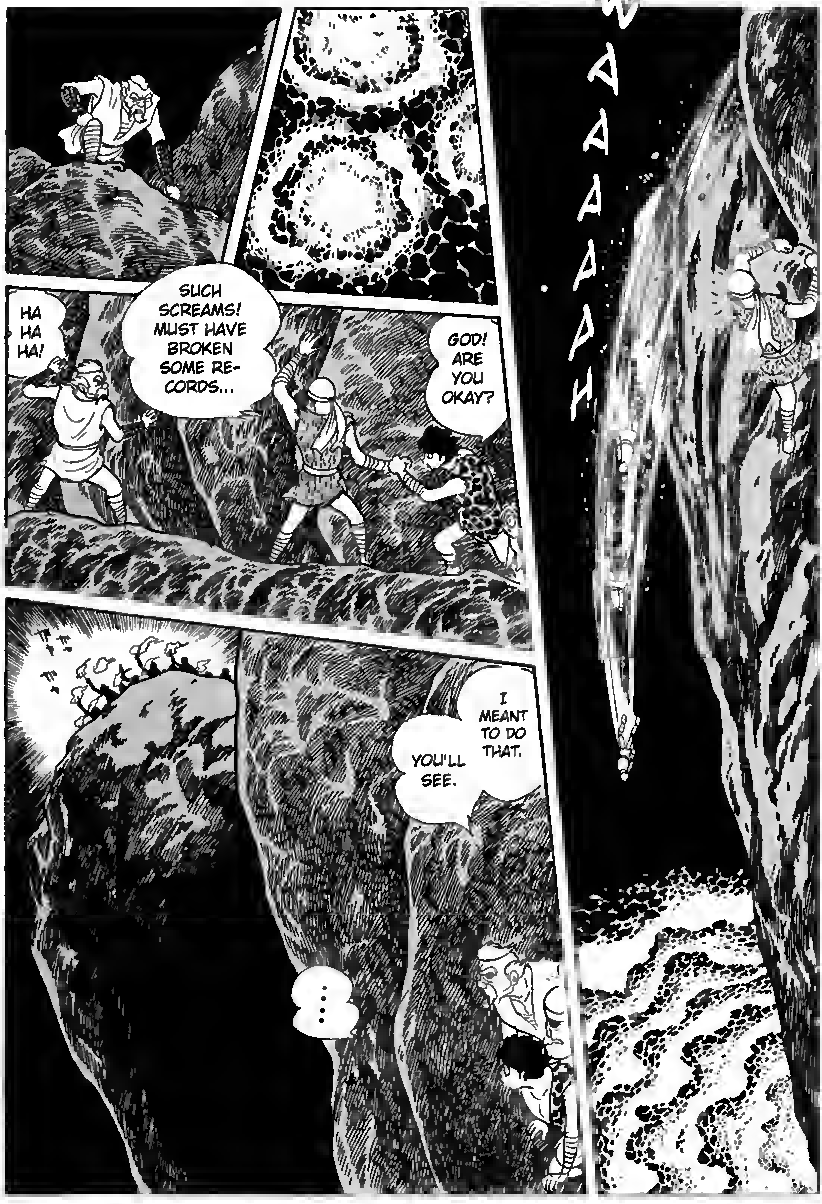

LOOK, OVER THERE!
AH ...

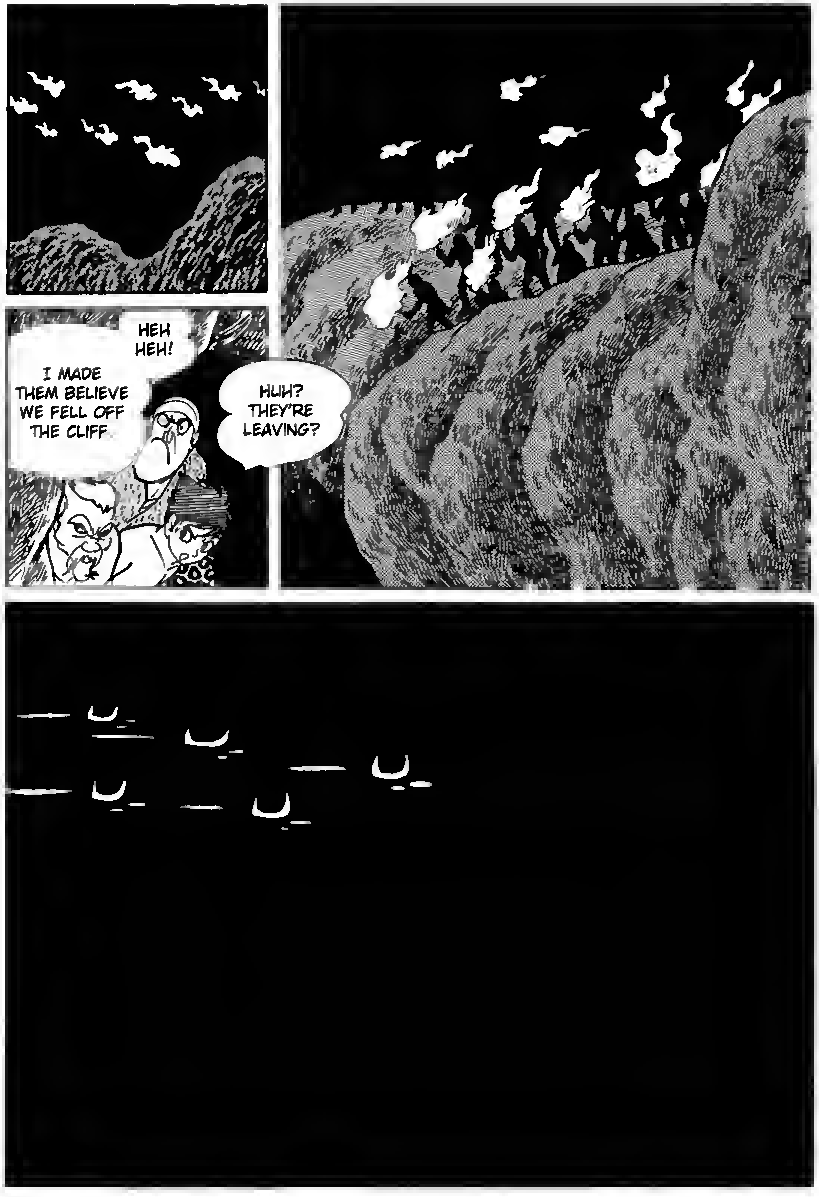

AND IF THEY SEE US, WE CAN BLOCK THE ENTRANCE!
WE CAN HIDE IN THAT CAVE!
...
BE CARE-FUL!
HERE WE GO!
WE HAVE NO CHOICE!

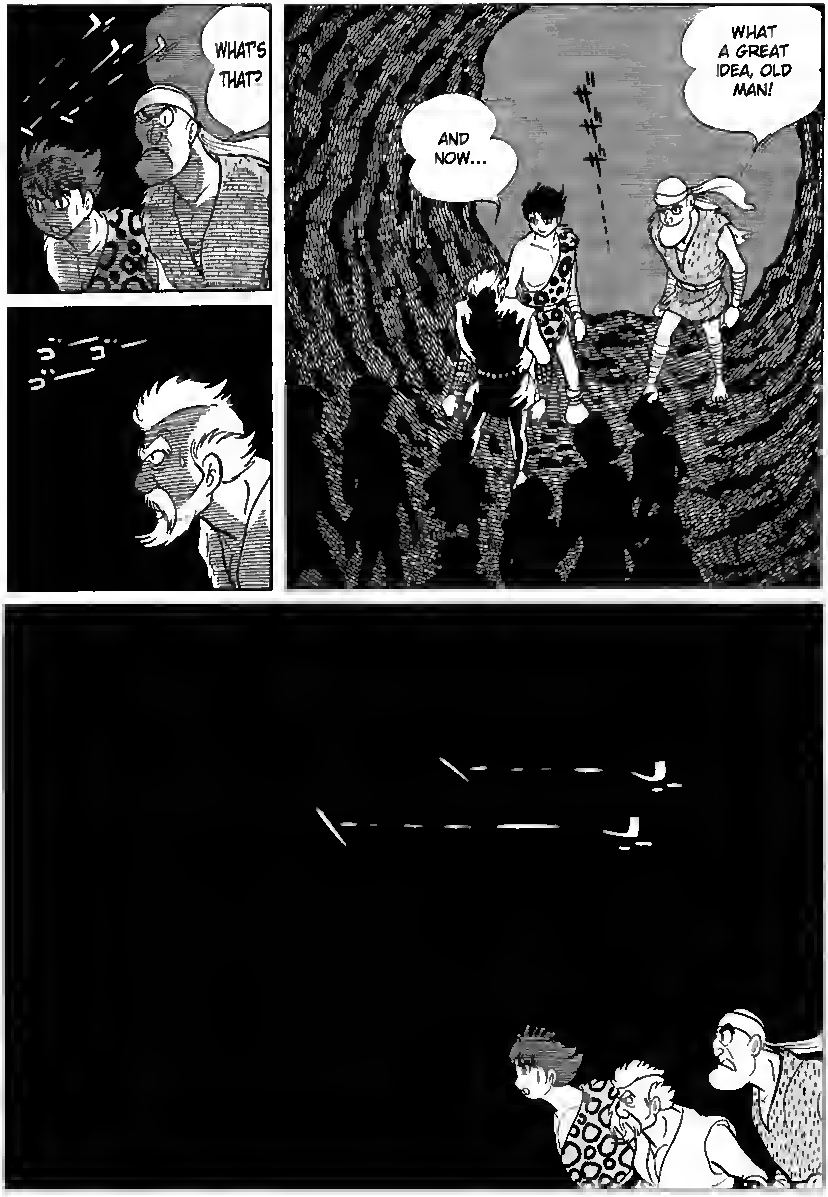

IT'S THEM !
IT'S GOOD! WE CAN PASS!
BUT BE CARE-FUL!
COME!
THEY ARE COMIN'
HMM ...
GO, THE YOUNG-EST FIRST.

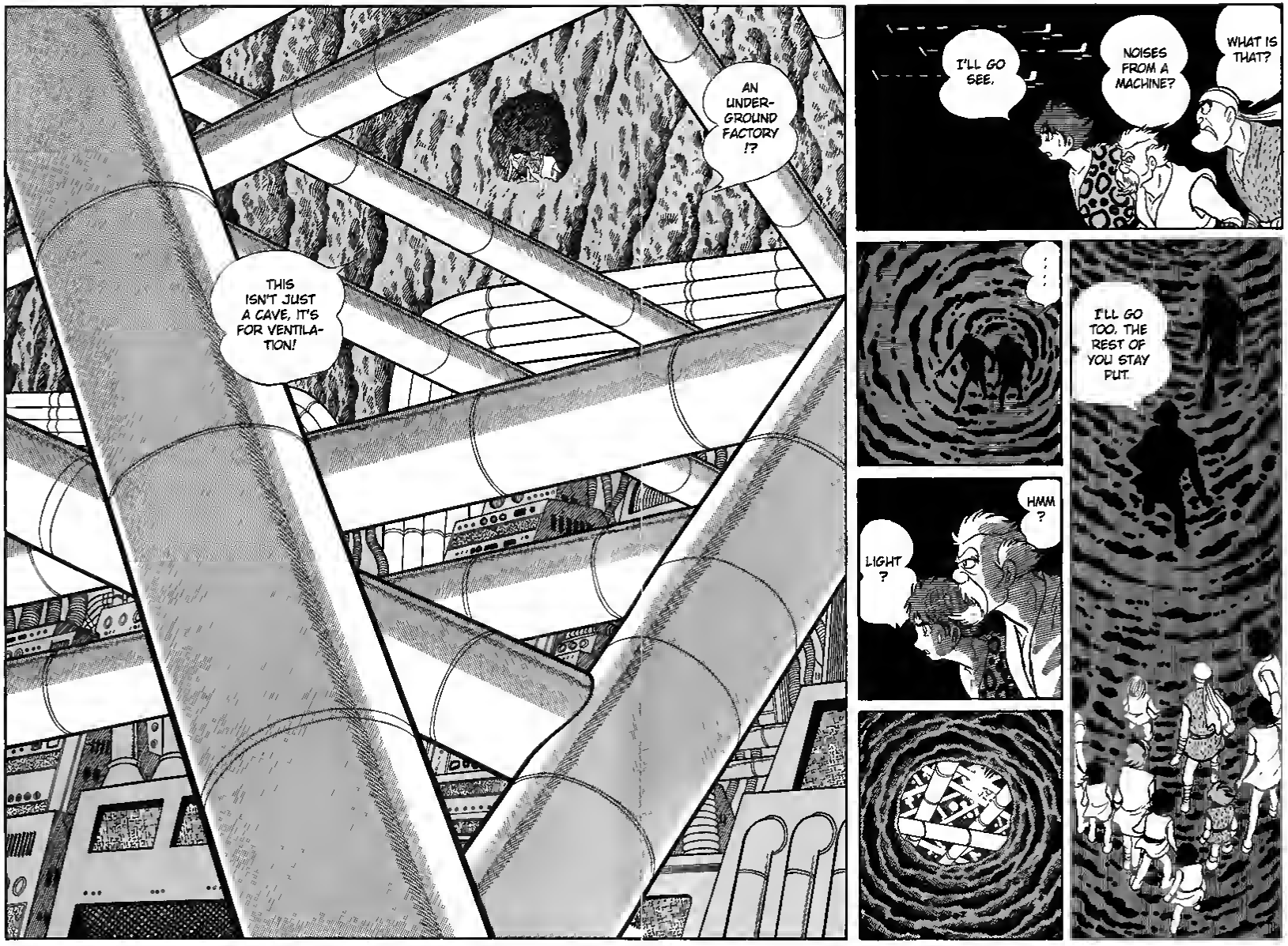

DON'T LOOK DOWN!
GIVE ME YOUR HAND.

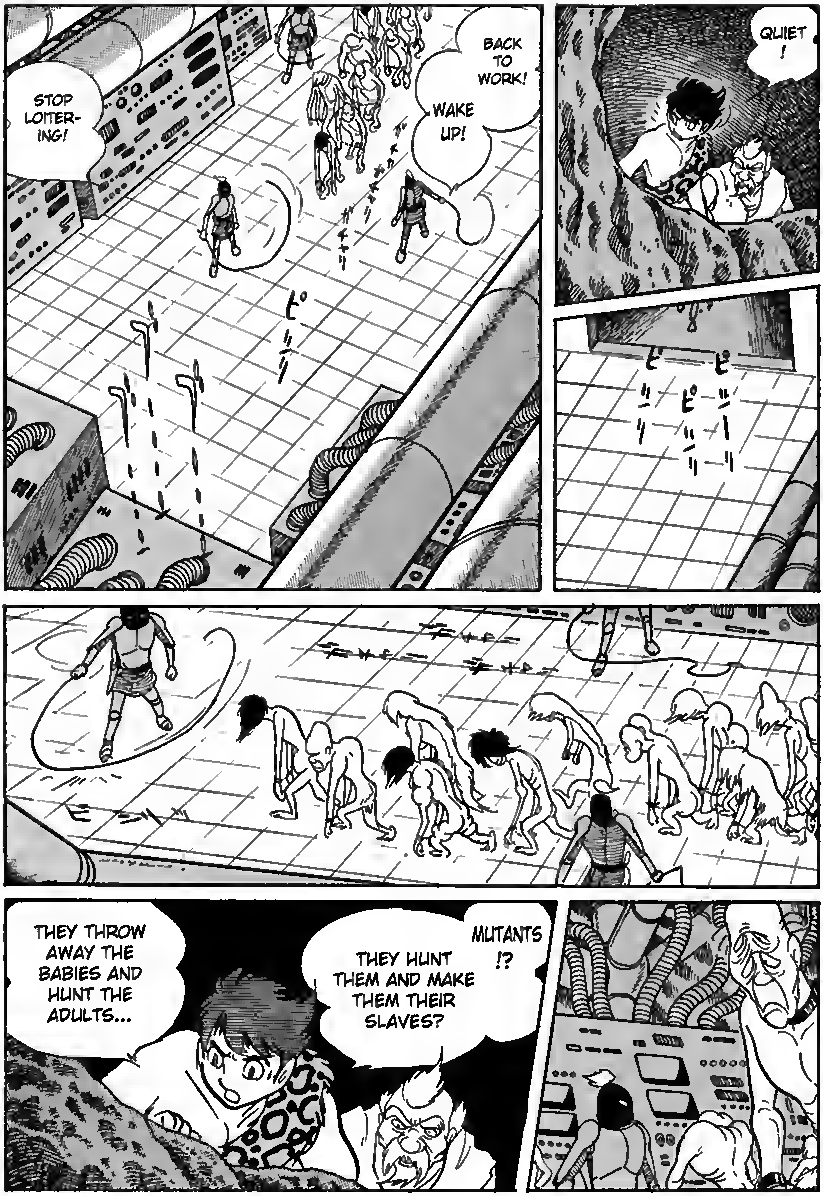

WAIT! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THESE GUYS!
THERE'S THREE .. GOOD. YOU, GO!
HMM!
THERE !
I SAID GO!
AH ...
EIIII!
AH!
W'HOAAA!!
SHIT !


AAAAAH
GOD! ARE YOU OKAY?
SUCH SCREAMS! MUST HAVE BROKEN SOME RECORDS...
HA HA HA!
I MEANT TO DO THAT.
YOU'LL SEE.
...

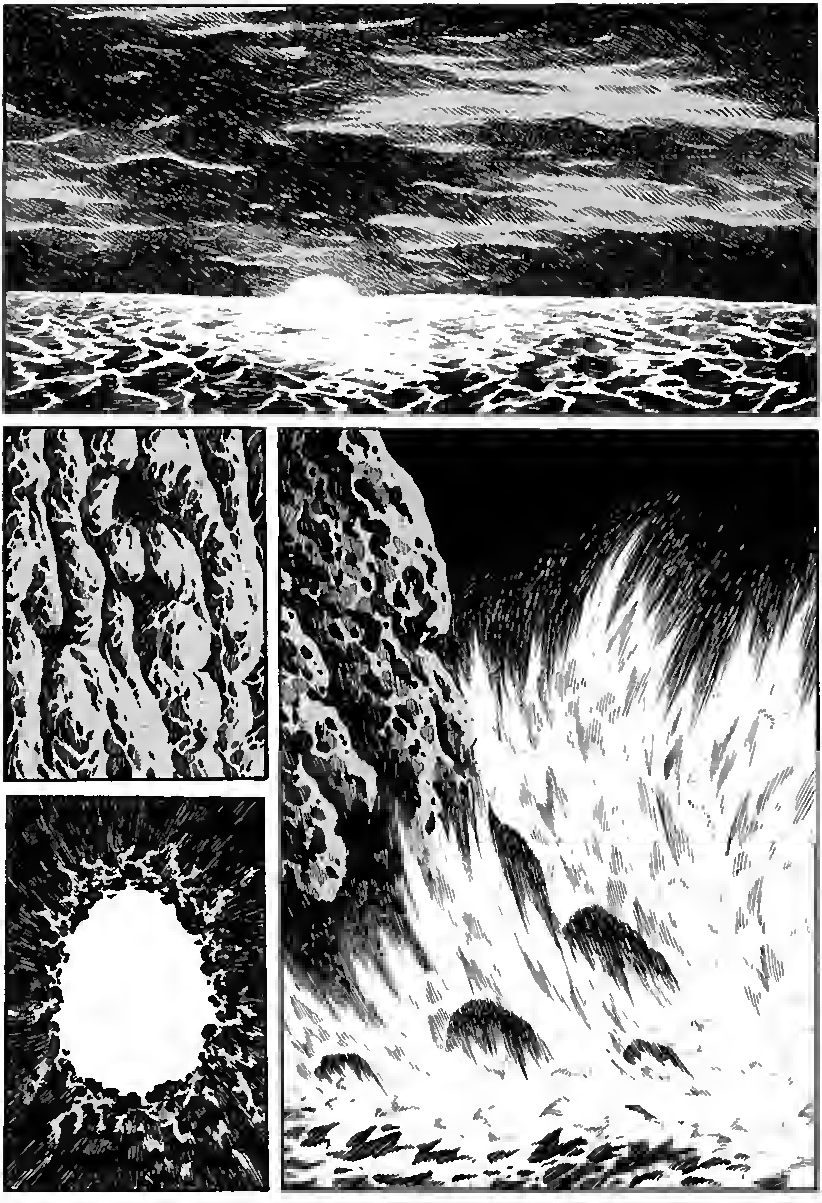

HEH HEH!
I MADE THEM BELIEVE WE FELL OFF THE CLIFF.
HUH? THEY'RE LEAVING?

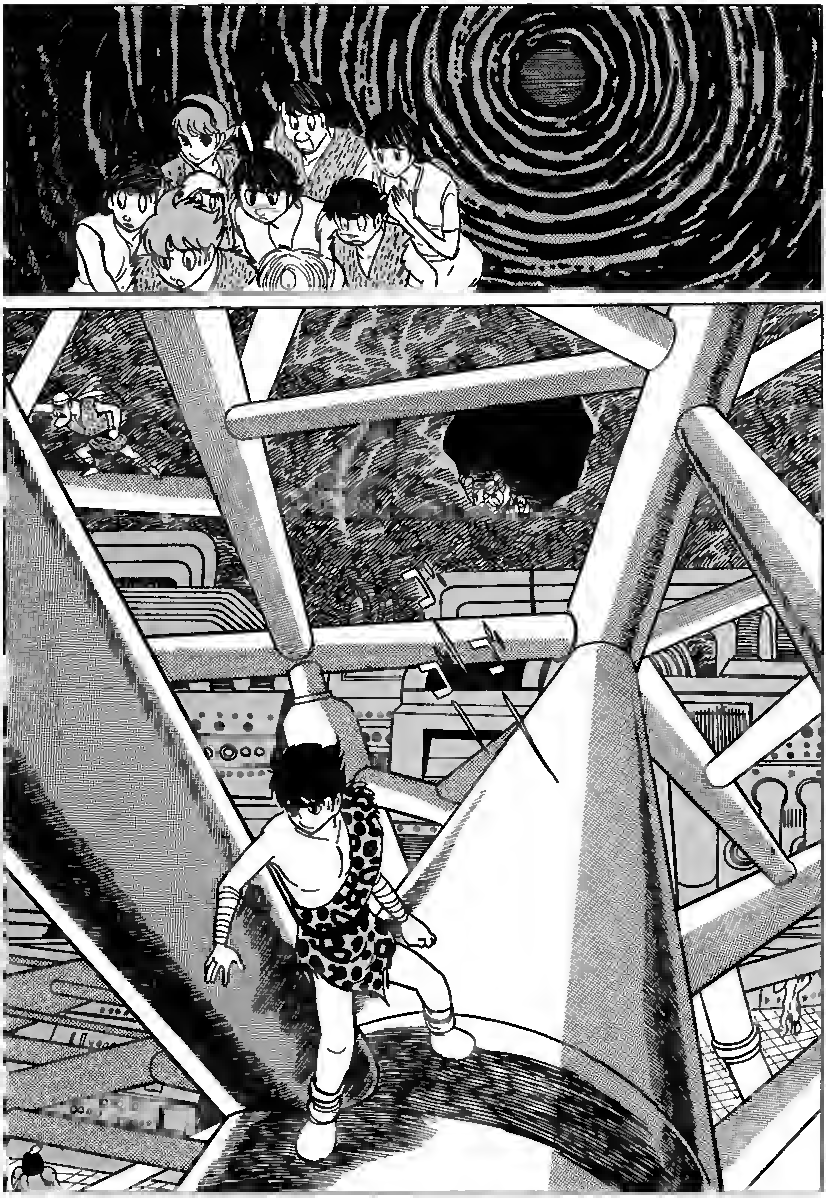

WHAT'S THAT?
AND NOW...
WHAT A GREAT IDEA, OLD MAN!

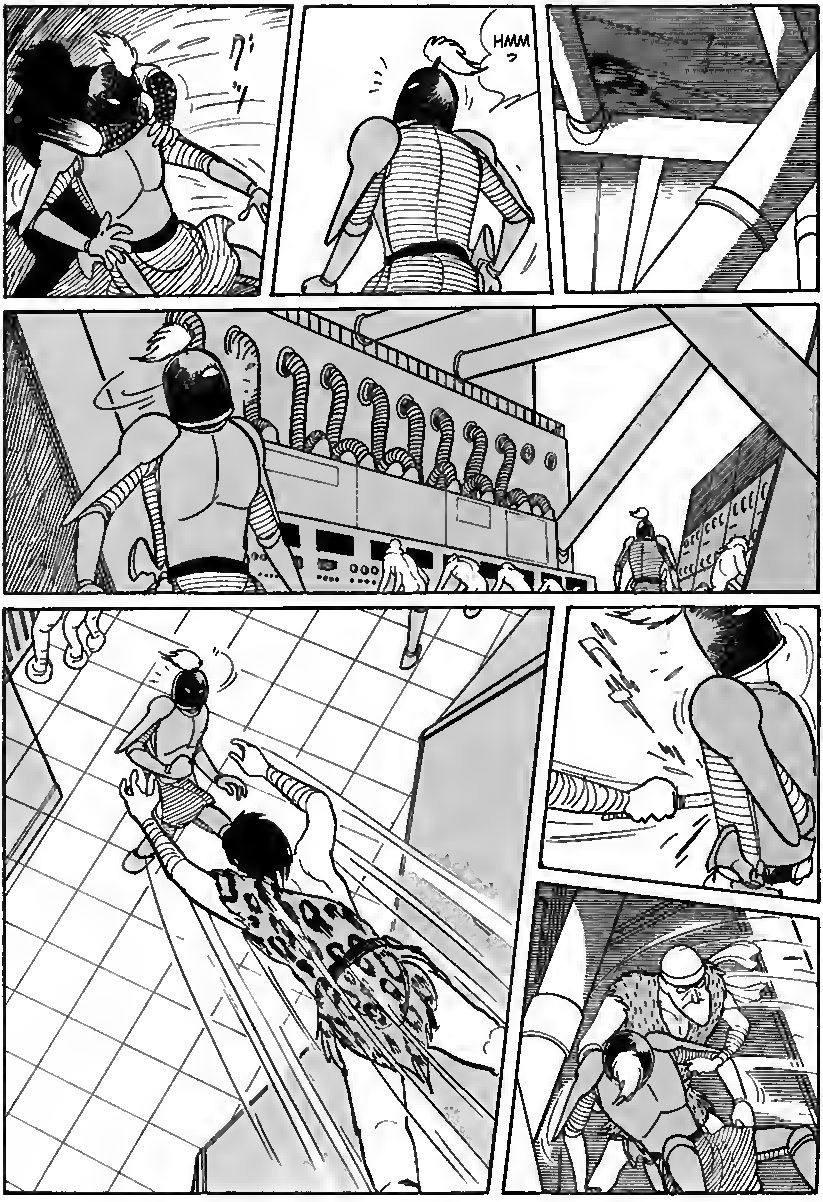

AN UNDER-GROUND FACTORY !?
THIS ISN'T JUST A CAVE, IT'S FOR VENTILA-TION!
I'LL GO SEE.
NOISES FROM A MACHINE?
WHAT IS THAT?
. . .
HMM ?
LIGHT ?
I'LL GO TOO. THE REST OF YOU STAY PUT.

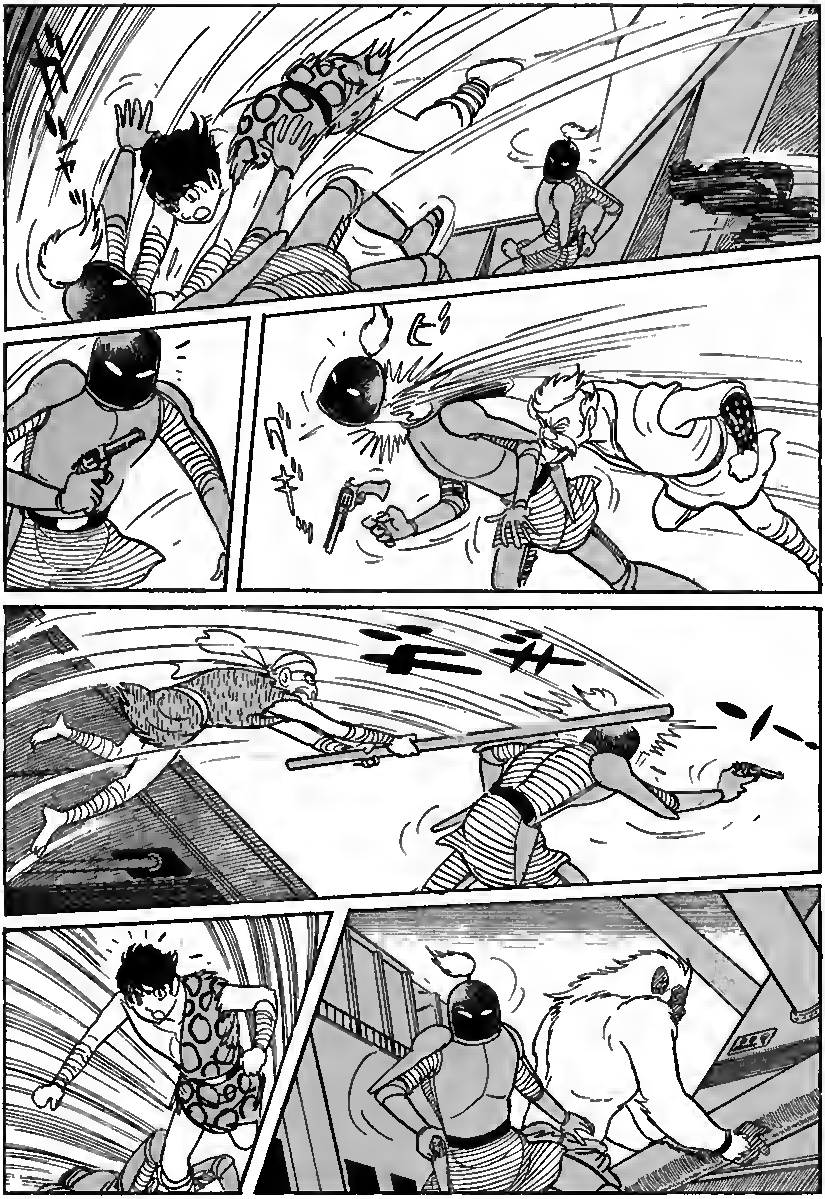

STOP LOITERING!
WAKE UP!
BACK TO WORK!
QUIET!
ピーピー
THEY THROW AWAY THE BABIES AND HUNT THE ADULTS...
THEY HUNT THEM AND MAKE THEM THEIR SLAVES?
MUTANTS!?

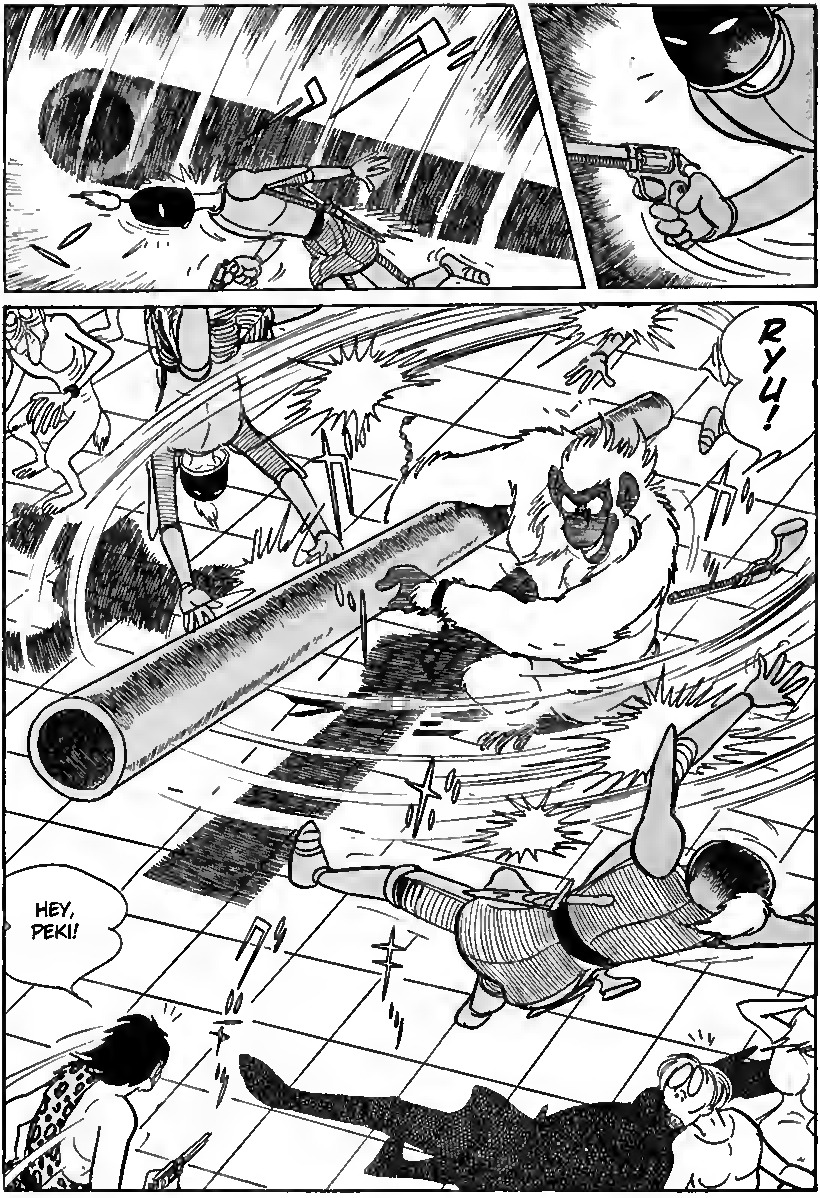
AH!
YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED BACK THERE!
DAMN IT!
FUCKING SHITBAGS!
SHIT!
IT'S DEK!

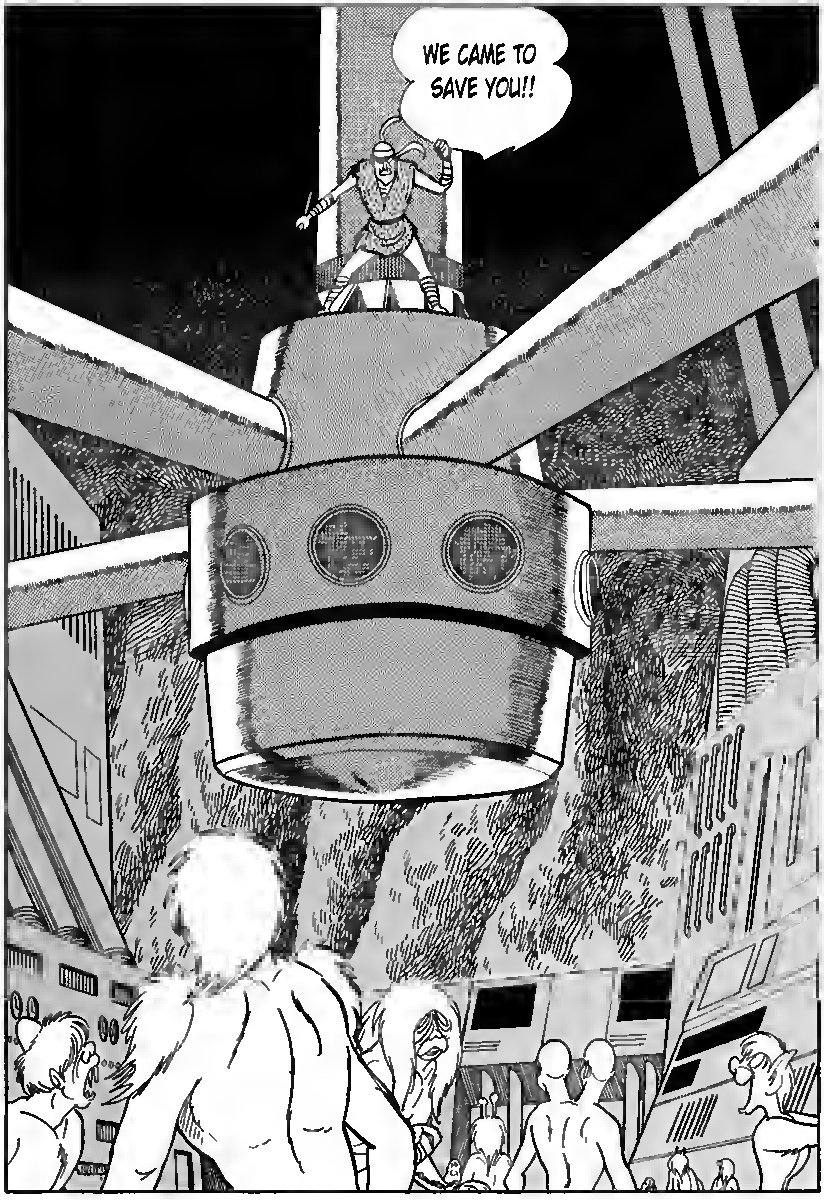


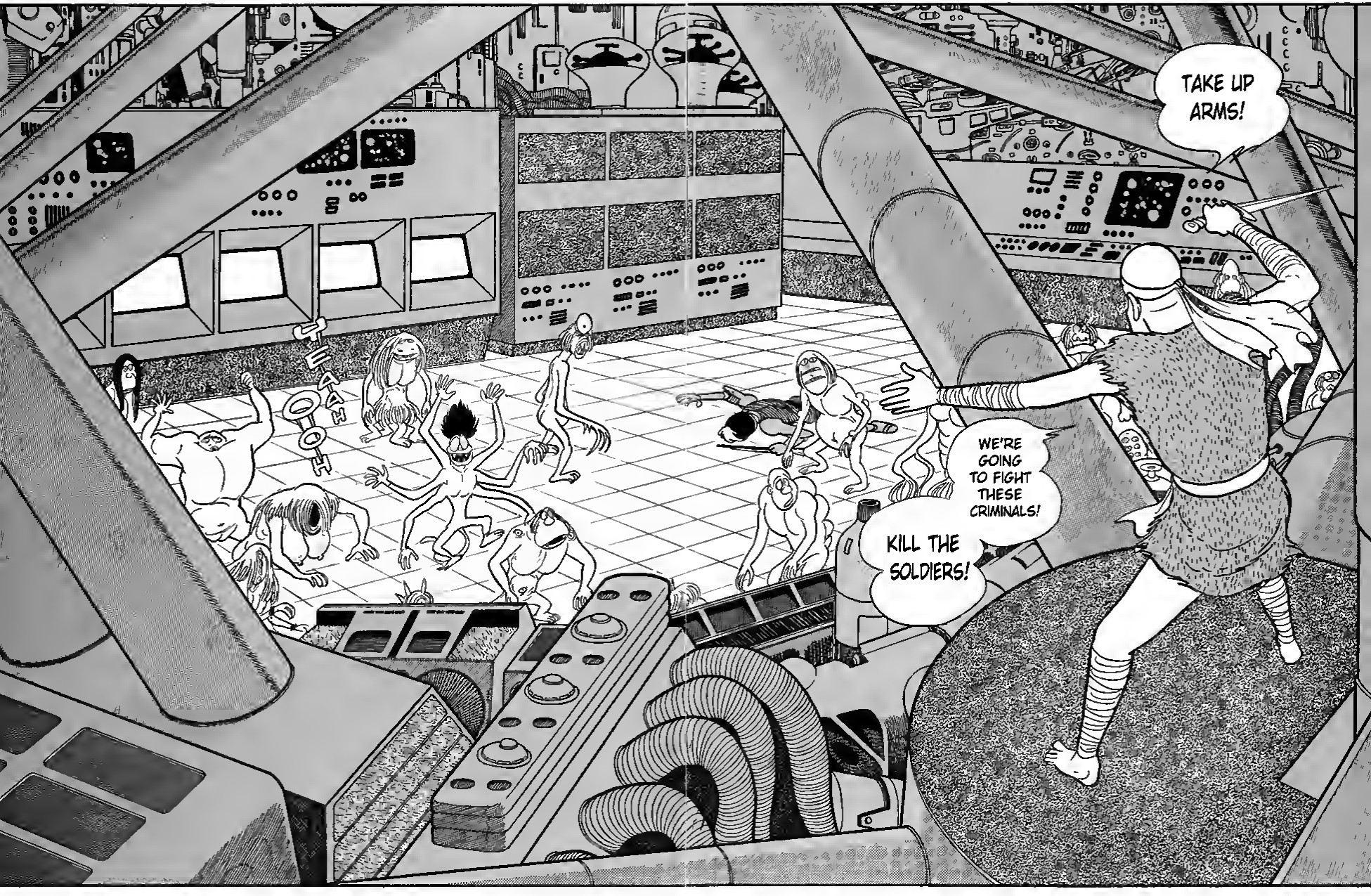



HMM




RYU!
HEY, PEKI!


WE CAME TO SAVE YOU!!

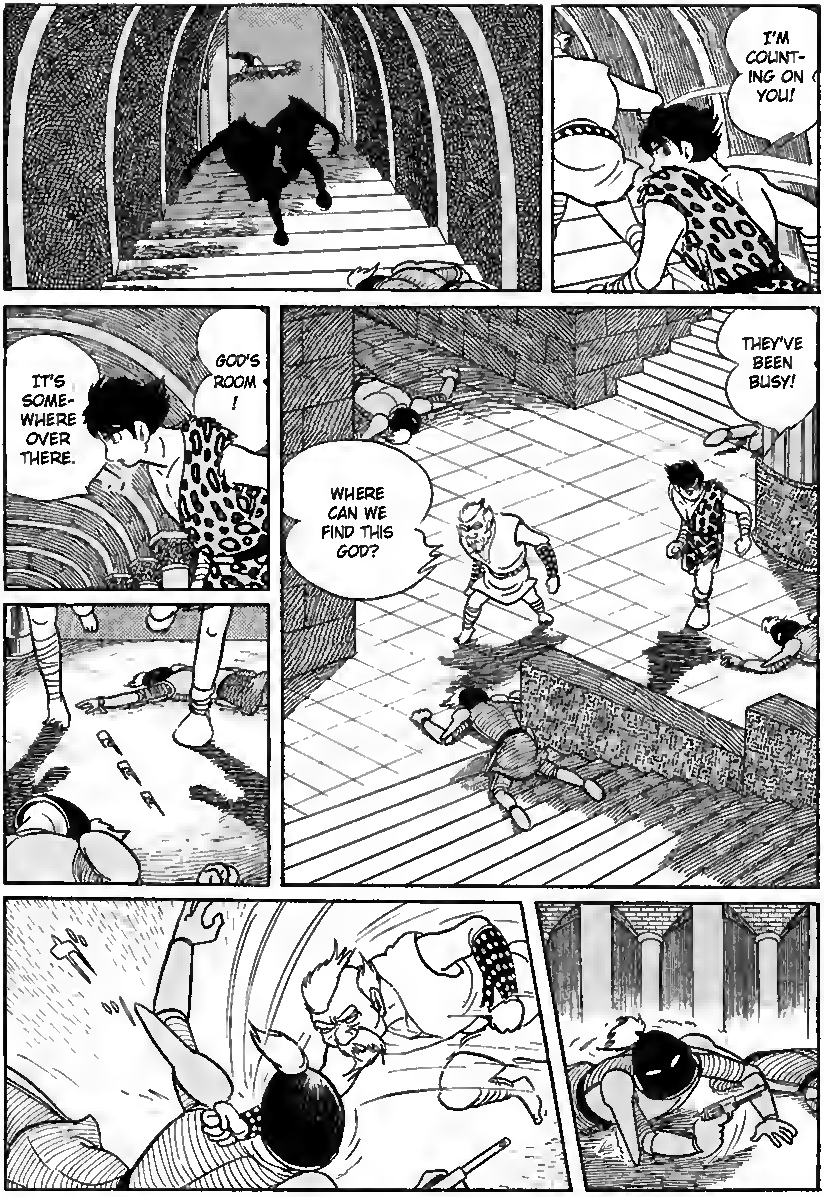

TAKE UP ARMS!
WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT THESE CRIMINALS!
KILL THE SOLDIERS!
HEAGH
OOH

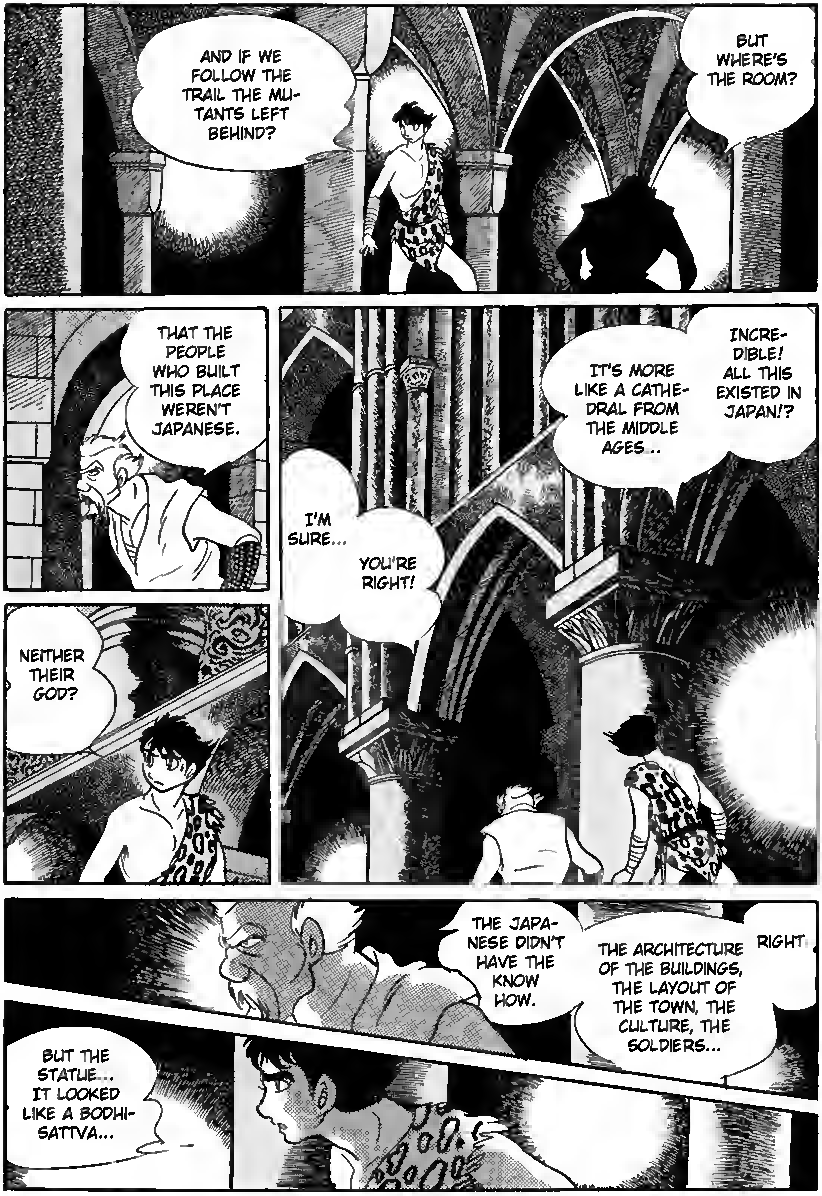
WAAH !
AH!
WHAT ARE YOU...
WHAT'S THAT RACKET?
WHAT !?
GREAT!
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!
LEAD YOUR FRIENDS AND TAKE OVER THE PALACE!
CONDOR ...
AWE-SOME!

CONDOR, GET EVERY-ONE INSIDE!
AFTER THE PALACE, WE TAKE THE TOWN.
HA HA! THIS SHOULD BE IN-TERESTING!
BE CAREFUL THOUGH, THEY STILL HAVE GUNS.
I DON'T BELIEVE THEY'VE EVER SEEN REAL COMBAT.
THE SOL-DIERS ARE TOO WEAK TO FIGHT BACK!
C'MON, EVERY-BODY!
LET'S GO!
I KNOW THAT!
DON'T TOUCH THE CITIZENS!
BUT DON'T FORGET, ONLY KILL THE SOL-DIERS...

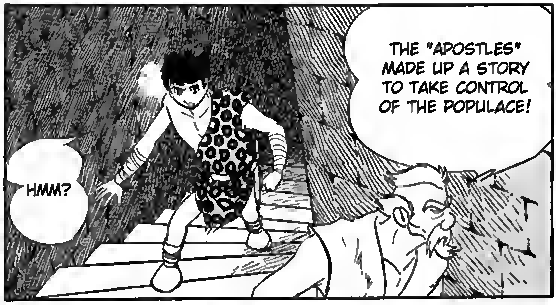
YEAAAH

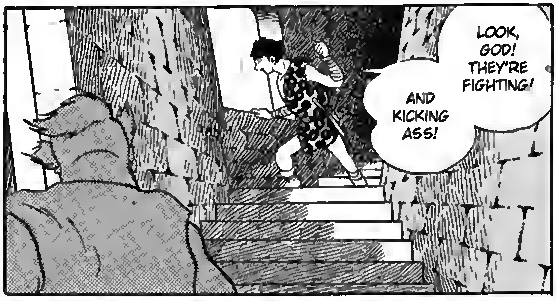
PEKI!
HELP THEM DOWN!
AND GET THEM SOME-THING TO EAT.
GHII!
AFTER THAT?
WHERE GO?
GOD AND I WILL TRY TO FIND THEIR LEADER.
YOU, PROTECT THEM.
AND DON'T MOVE UNTIL WE SAY SO.
OKAY!
I'M GOOD!

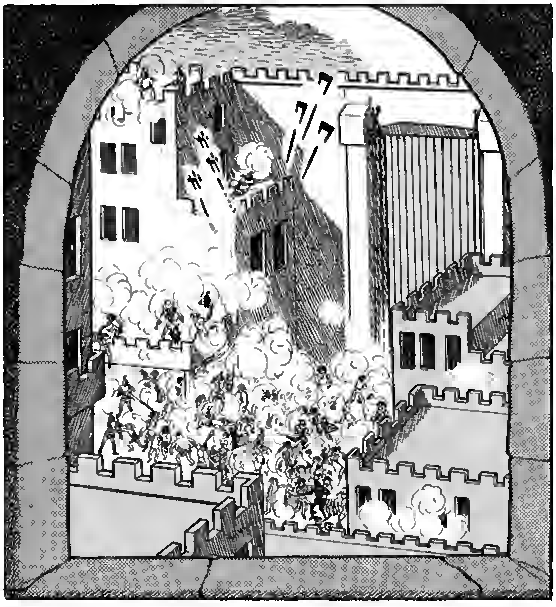

I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
GOD'S ROOM!
IT'S SOMEWHERE OVER THERE.
THEY'VE BEEN BUSY!
WHERE CAN WE FIND THIS GOD?


AND IF WE FOLLOW THE TRAIL THE MUTANTS LEFT BEHIND?
BUT WHERE'S THE ROOM?
THAT THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT THIS PLACE WEREN'T JAPANESE.
INCREDIBLE! ALL THIS EXISTED IN JAPAN!?
IT'S MORE LIKE A CATHEDRAL FROM THE MIDDLE AGES..
I'M SURE...
YOU'RE RIGHT!
NEITHER THEIR GOD?
THE JAPANESE DIDN'T HAVE THE KNOW HOW.
RIGHT.
THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE BUILDINGS, THE LAYOUT OF THE TOWN, THE CULTURE, THE SOLDIERS...
BUT THE STATUE... IT LOOKED LIKE A BODHISATTVA...

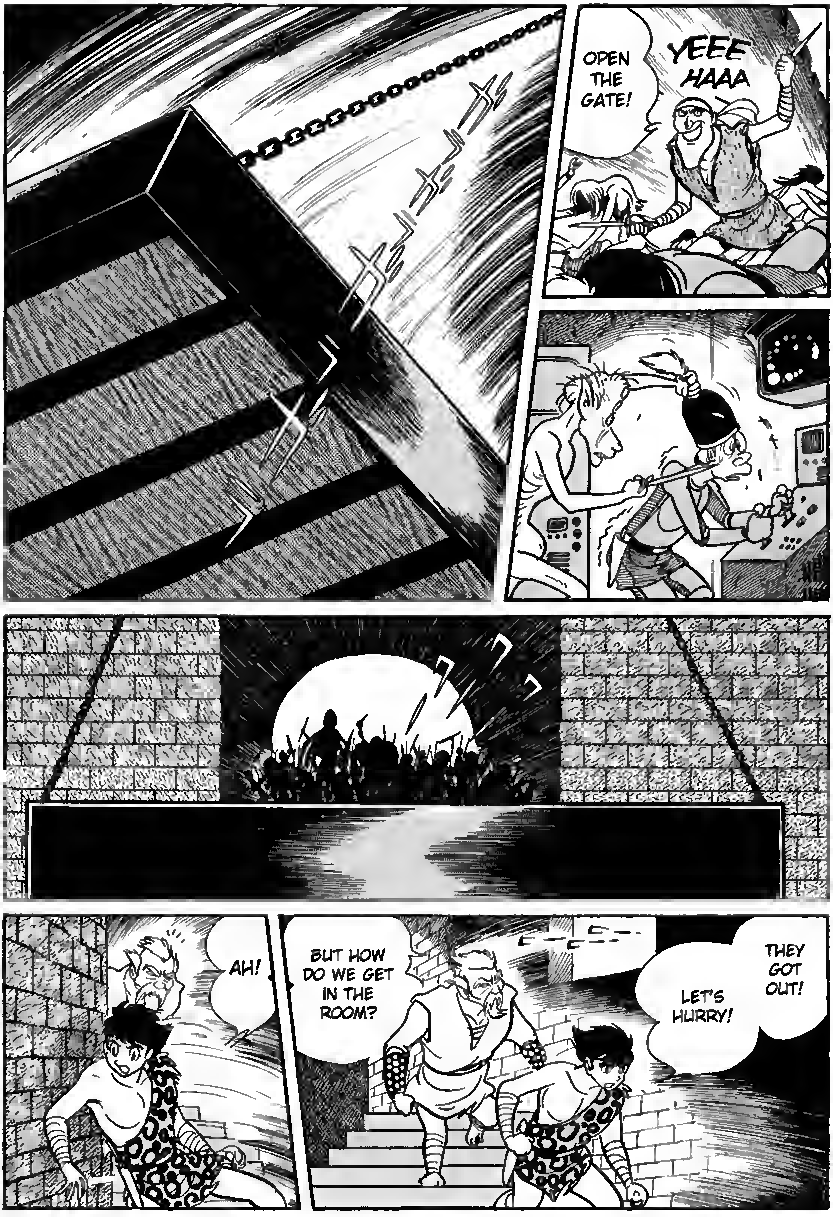
THEY'RE STRANGE, BUT NOT CRAZY...
CHOOSING A MYSTICAL BUDDHIST CHARACTER THEY KNOW NOTHING OF!
AND IF THIS BUDDHIST STATUE IS NOW A GOD, THEN THAT PROVES IT WAS LATER DOMINATED BY EUROPEANS...
BECAUSE THE DESCENDANTS OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE WERE THE ONES WHO WERE HERE FIRST.
WHEN THEY FOUND THE LIGHTHOUSE AND OTHER EQUIPMENT...
YOU BELIEVE THAT?
IF THAT STATUE WAS THERE FROM THE BEGINNING, IT MUST BE OVER A HUNDRED YEARS...
ISN'T THAT A BIT STRANGE?
WAIT A BIT!
THEY PROFITED FROM IT BY USING IT TO DOMINATE THE SURVIVORS!
PERHAPS IT'S A CYBORG LIKE ME... OR BETTER?
BUT IF EVER...
TRUE...
I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THAT...
THIS TOWN MUST BE AT LEAST A CENTURY OLD.

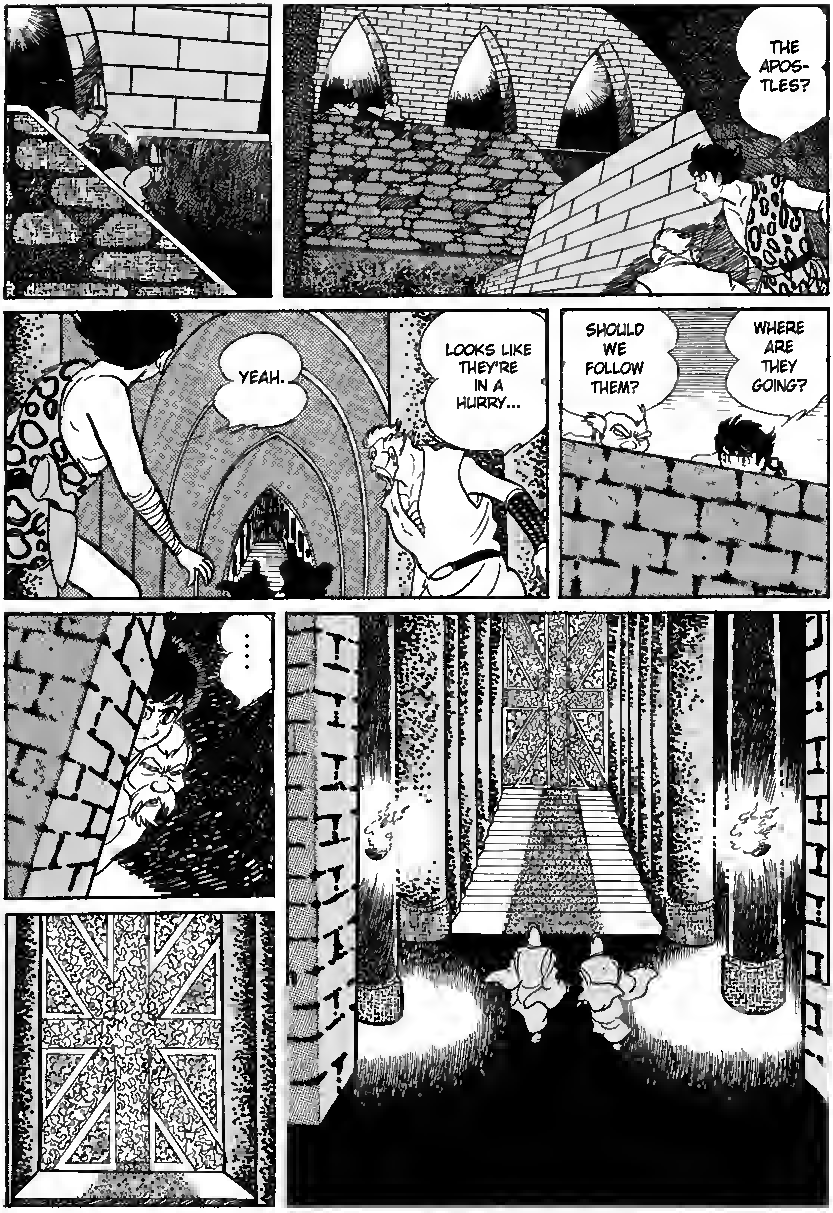

THE "APOSTLES" MADE UP A STORY TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE POPULACE!
HMM?

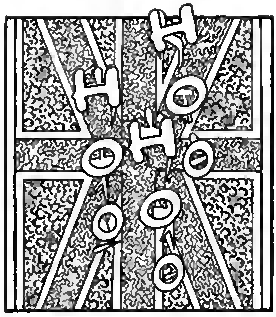

LOOK, GOD! THEY'RE FIGHTING!
AND KICKING ASS!



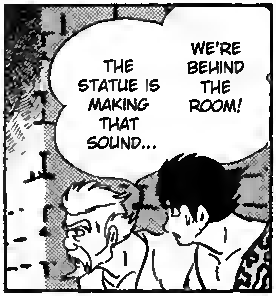
YES!
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEY COULD HAVE LIVED FOR AGES!
PROB-ABLY..
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A REAL GOD!

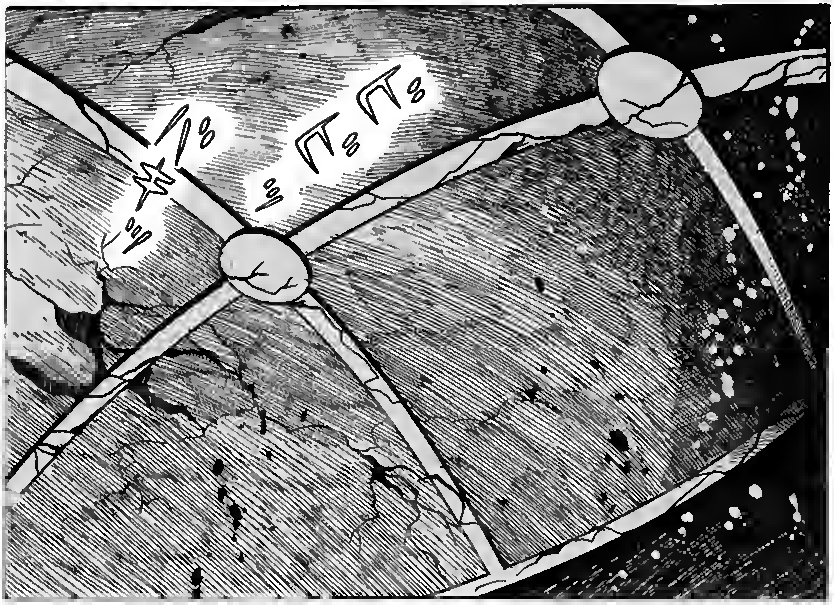

OPEN THE GATE!
YEEE HAAA
AH!
BUT HOW DO WE GET IN THE ROOM?
LET'S HURRY!
THEY GOT OUT!

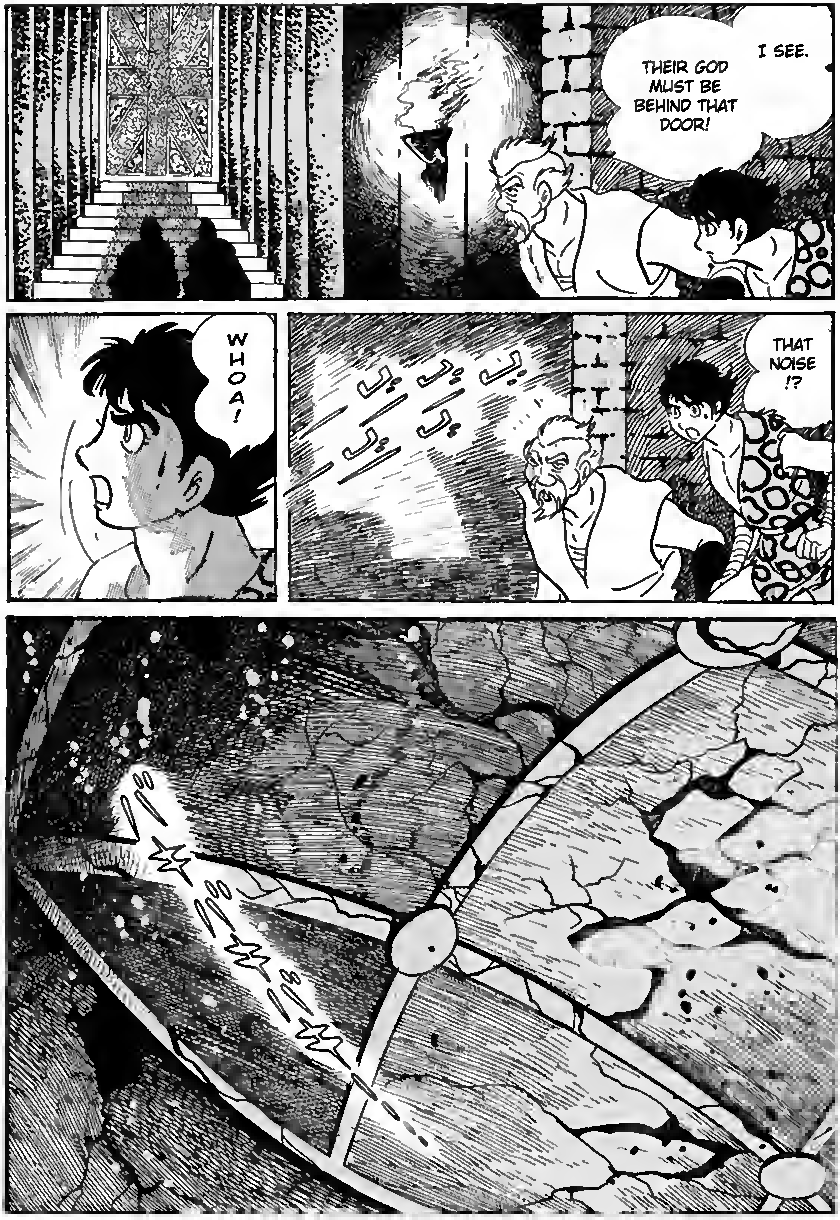

THE APOS-TLES?
WHERE ARE THEY GOING?
SHOULD WE FOLLOW THEM?
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE IN A HURRY...
YEAH.
. . .



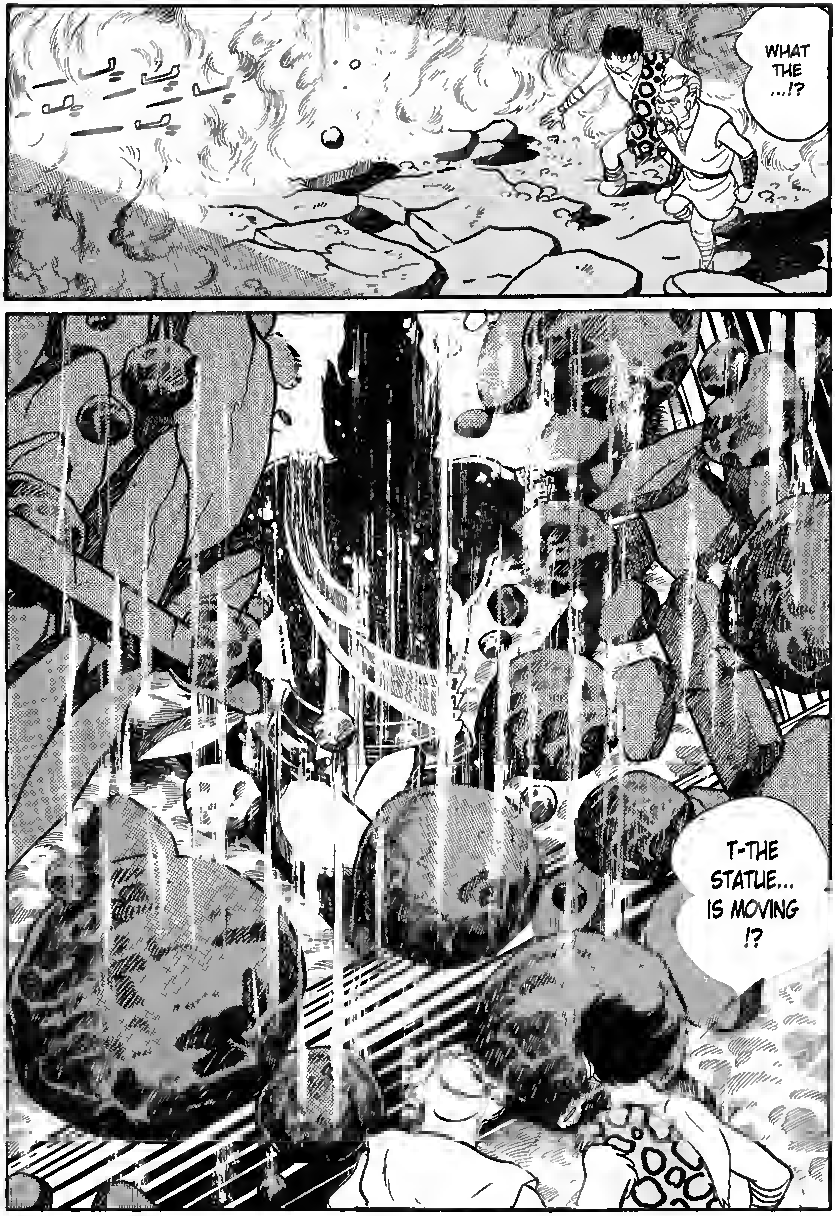
OH, LORD!
COME AND SAVE US!
OH, MIGHTY LORD!
THE TOWN IS IN COMPLETE DISARRAY!
IT'S A REVOLT!
HELP US!


THE STATUE IS MAKING THAT SOUND...
WE'RE BEHIND THE ROOM!




I SEE.
THEIR GOD MUST BE BEHIND THAT DOOR!
THAT NOISE !?
WHOA!

RYU! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
HMM ?
AH!
WATCH OUT!


WHAT THE ...!?
T-THE STATUE... IS MOVING !?

AAAH!

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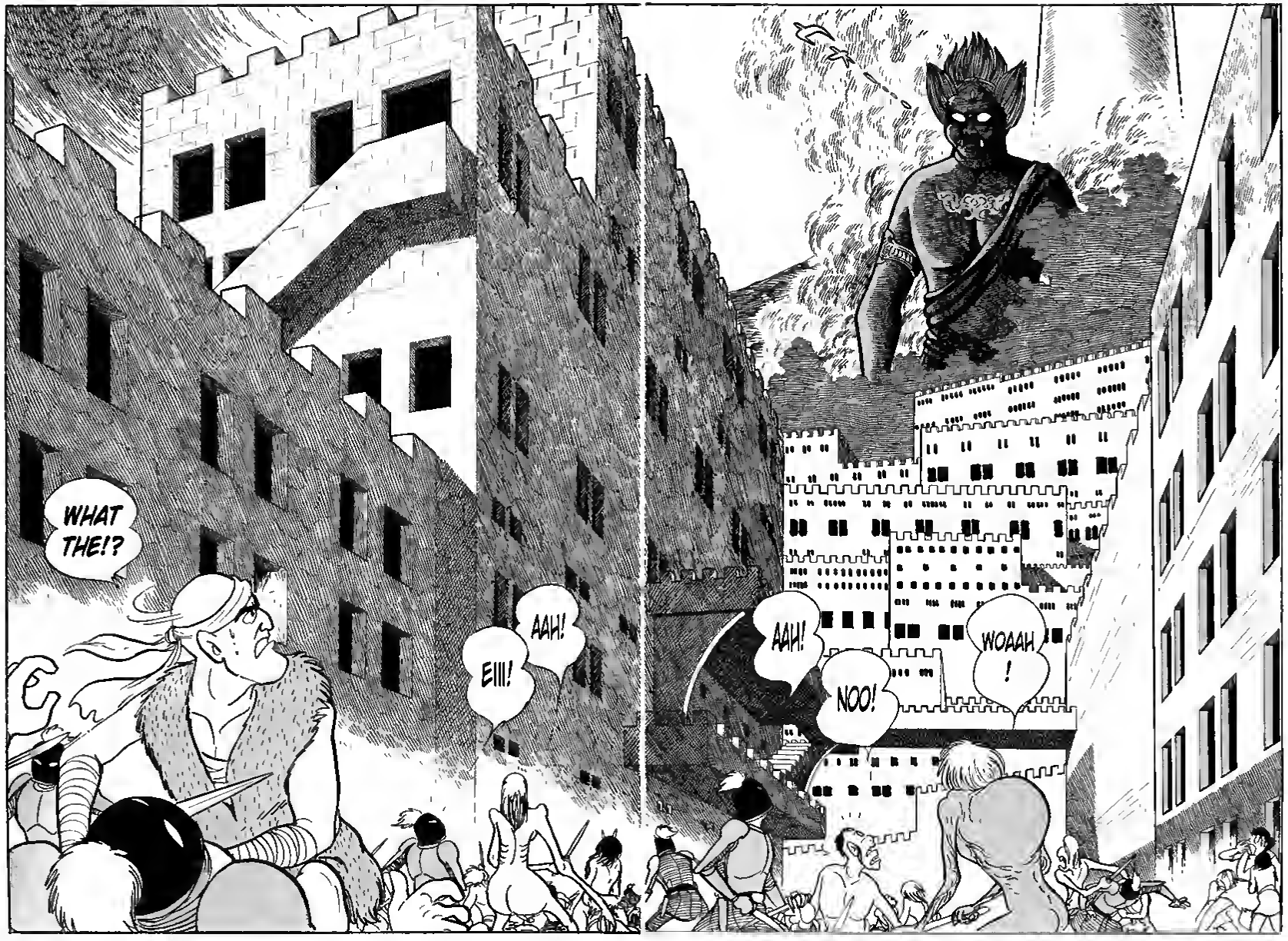
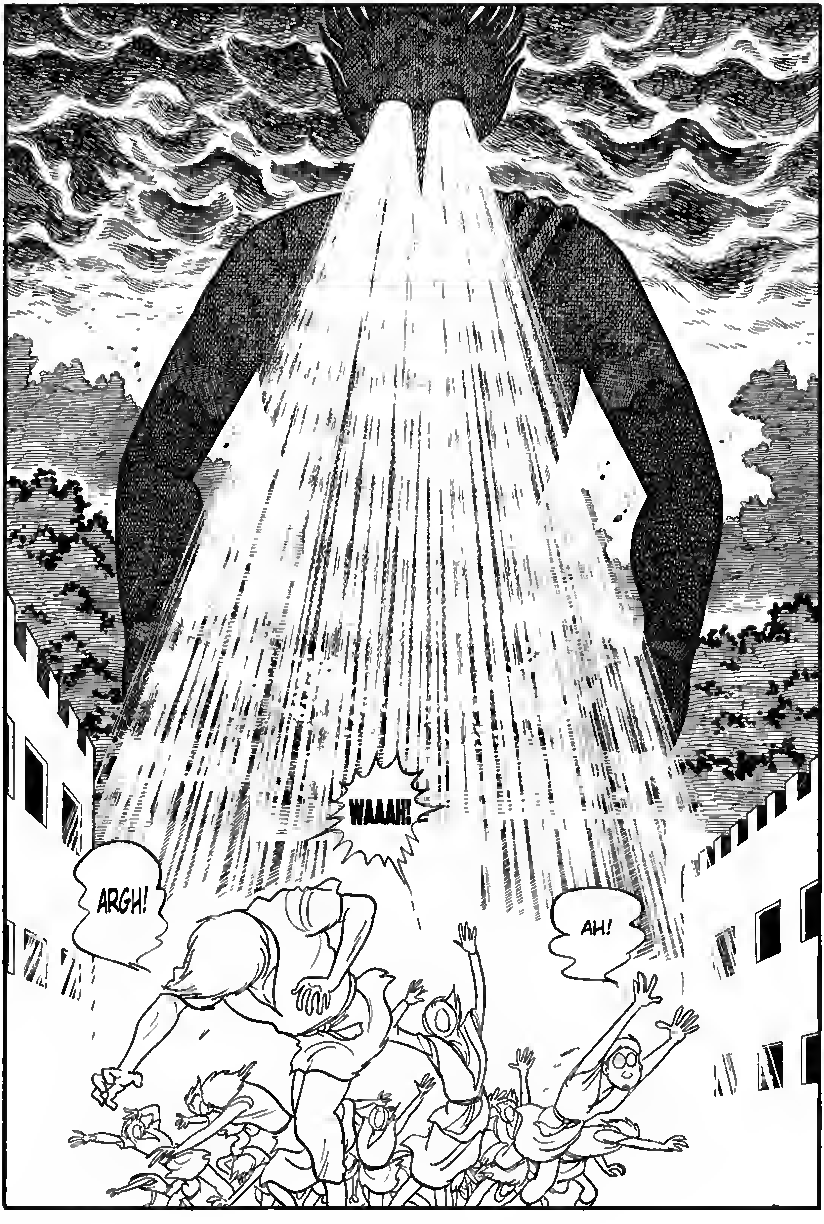
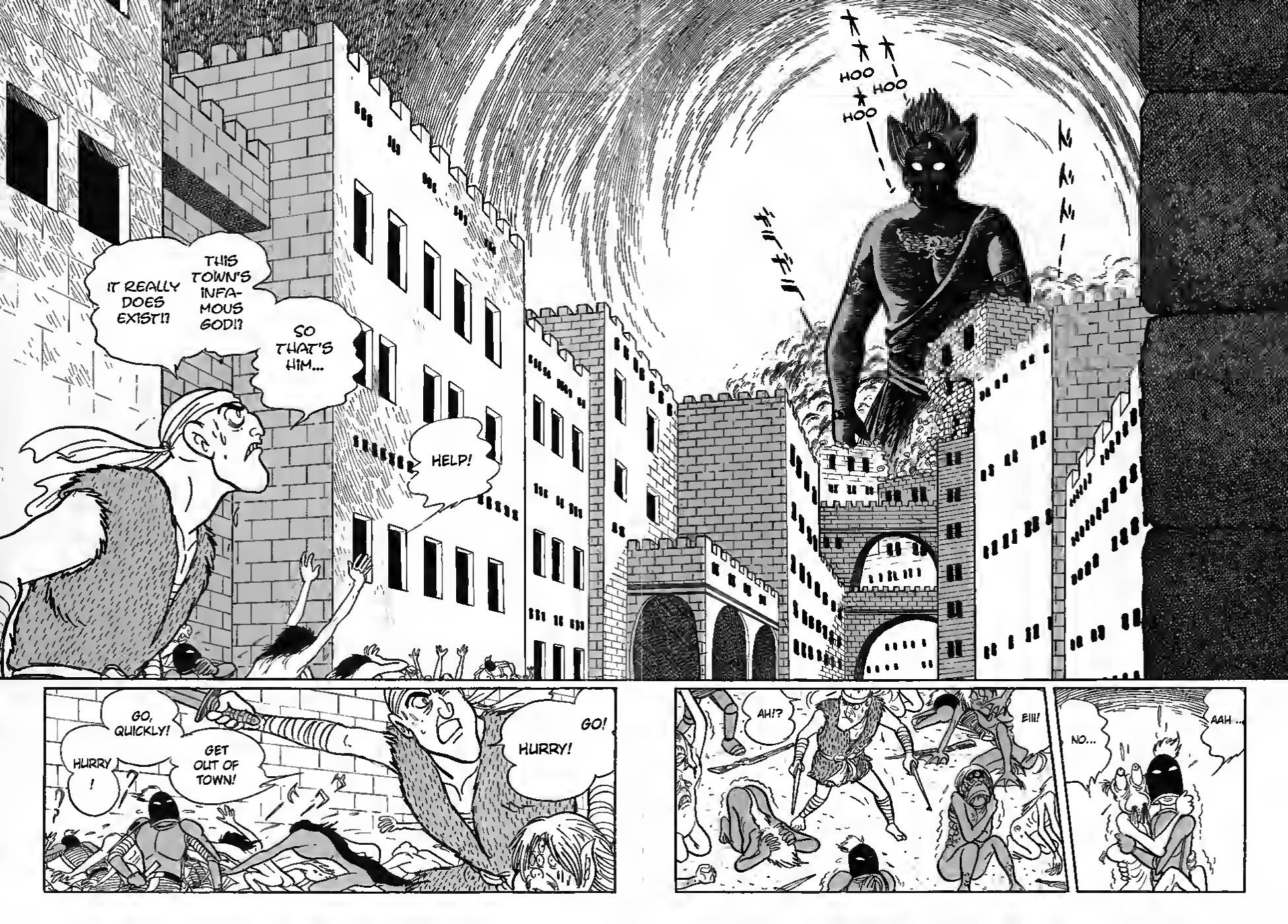
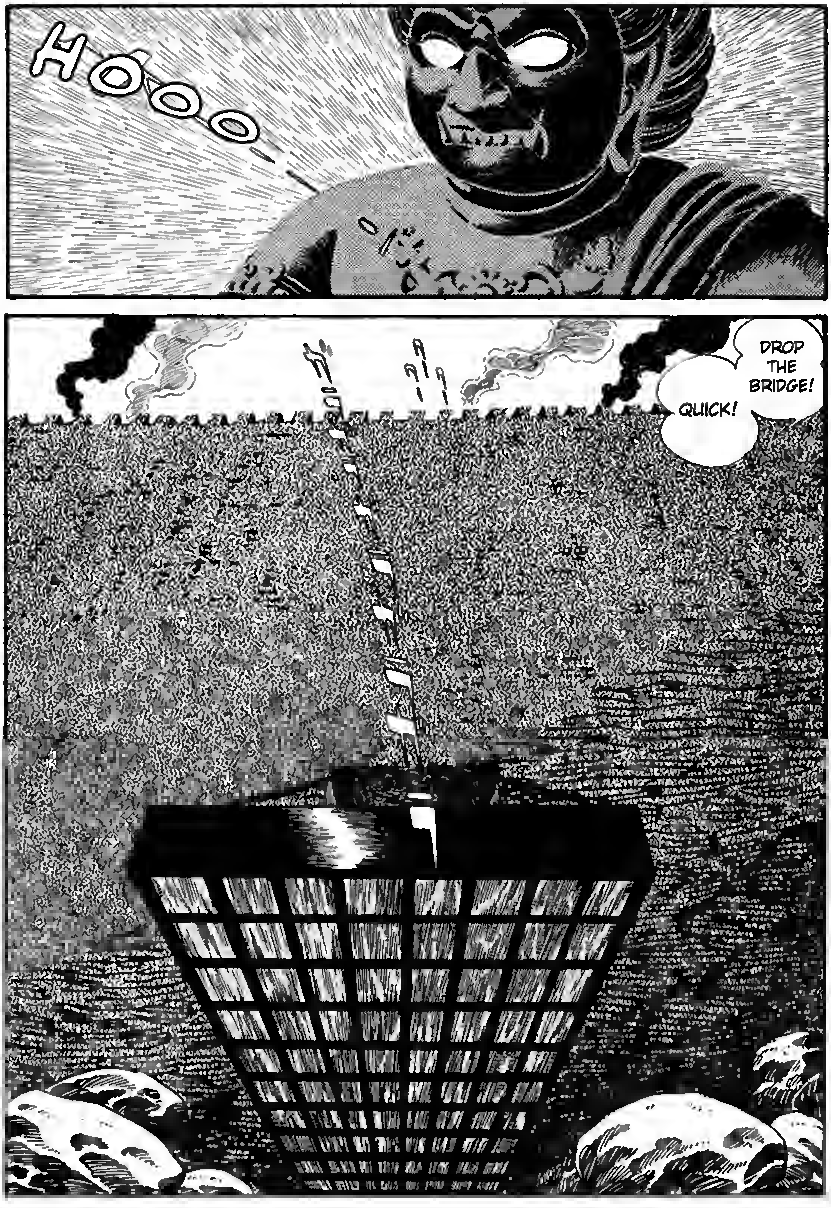
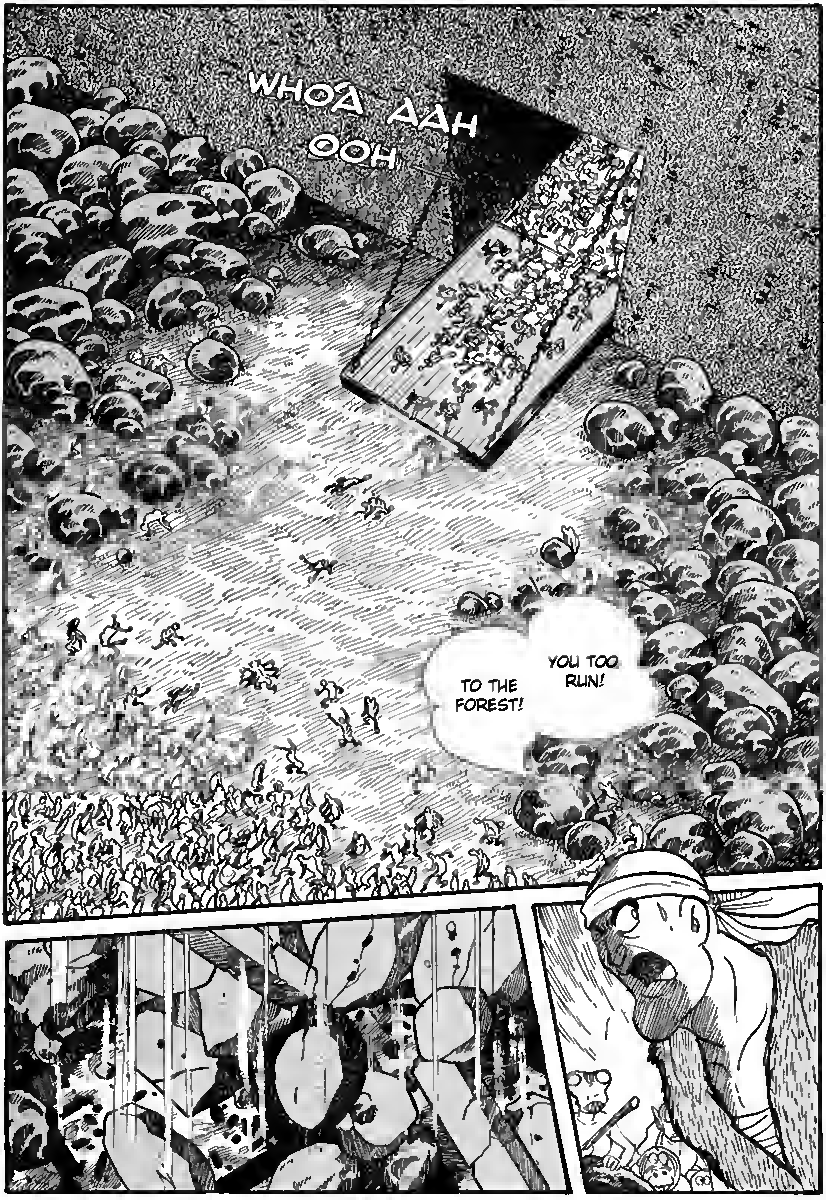

WHAT THE!?
EIII!
AAH!
AAH!
NOO!
WOAAH !

AH...
HELP!
NO...


WAAAH!
ARGH!
AH!


IT REALLY DOES EXIST!?
THIS TOWN'S INFA-MOUS GOD!?
SO THAT'S HIM...
HELP!
HOO
HOO
HOO
GO, QUICKLY!
HURRY!
GET OUT OF TOWN!
GO!
HURRY!
AH!?
EIII!
NO...
AAH...

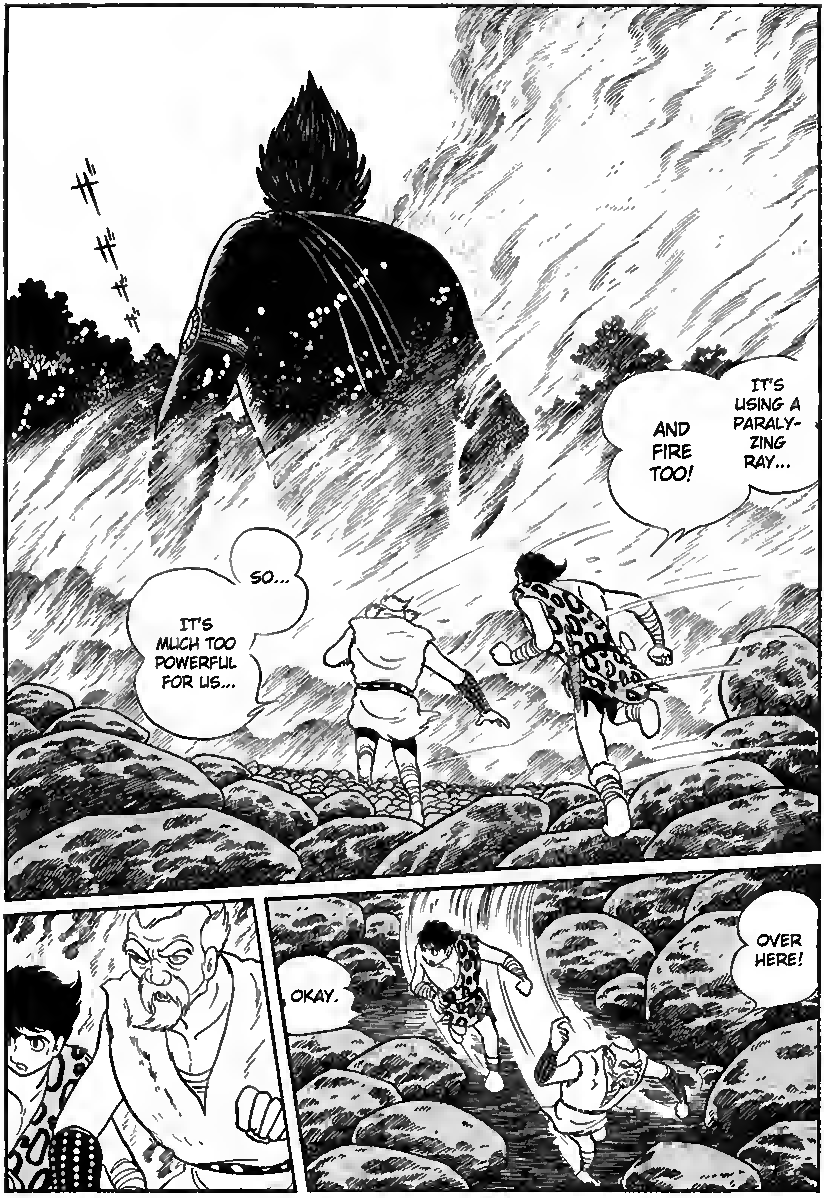

HOOO
DROP THE BRIDGE!
QUICK!


WHOA AAH
OOH
YOU TOO RUN!
TO THE FOREST!

LOOK AT THAT, RYU.
YES!
IT'S STRANGE ...
THAT STATUE IS KILLING EVERYONE, THE VILLAGERS, THE SOLDIERS, THE MUTANTS...
IT'S A ROBOT!

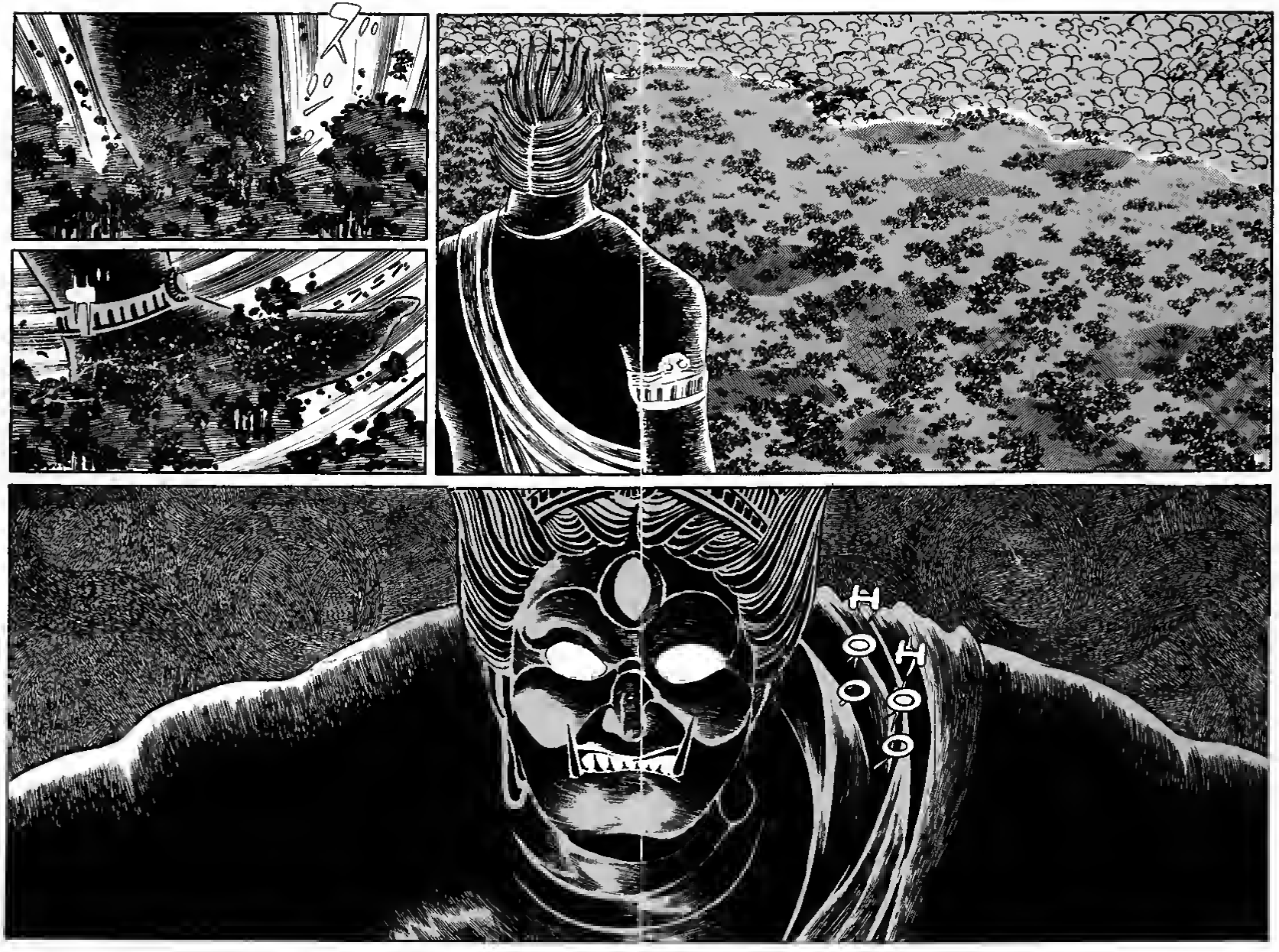
HUH?
IT CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE.
A ROBOT!
MAYBE... MAYBE NOT.
LOOK!
OR IT'LL KILL EVERY-ONE!
WE HAVE TO DO SOME-THING!
AH!

WAAH!
NO...
AH!


IT'S USING A PARALY-ZING RAY...
AND FIRE TOO!
SO...
IT'S MUCH TOO POWERFUL FOR US...
OVER HERE!
OKAY.

OVER HERE!
YOU AL-RIGHT?
HEY! YOU GUYS!
HAS ANYONE HERE SEEN CONDOR?
THERE —
AH!
COME HERE!
HUH !?
IT HAS AN ADVANTAGE WITH IT'S HEIGHT AND MASS.
AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!
WE'RE TRYING TO COME UP WITH A PLAN TO DESTROY THAT MONS-TER!

EVERY-
BODY
RUN!
AAH
OOH
WAAAH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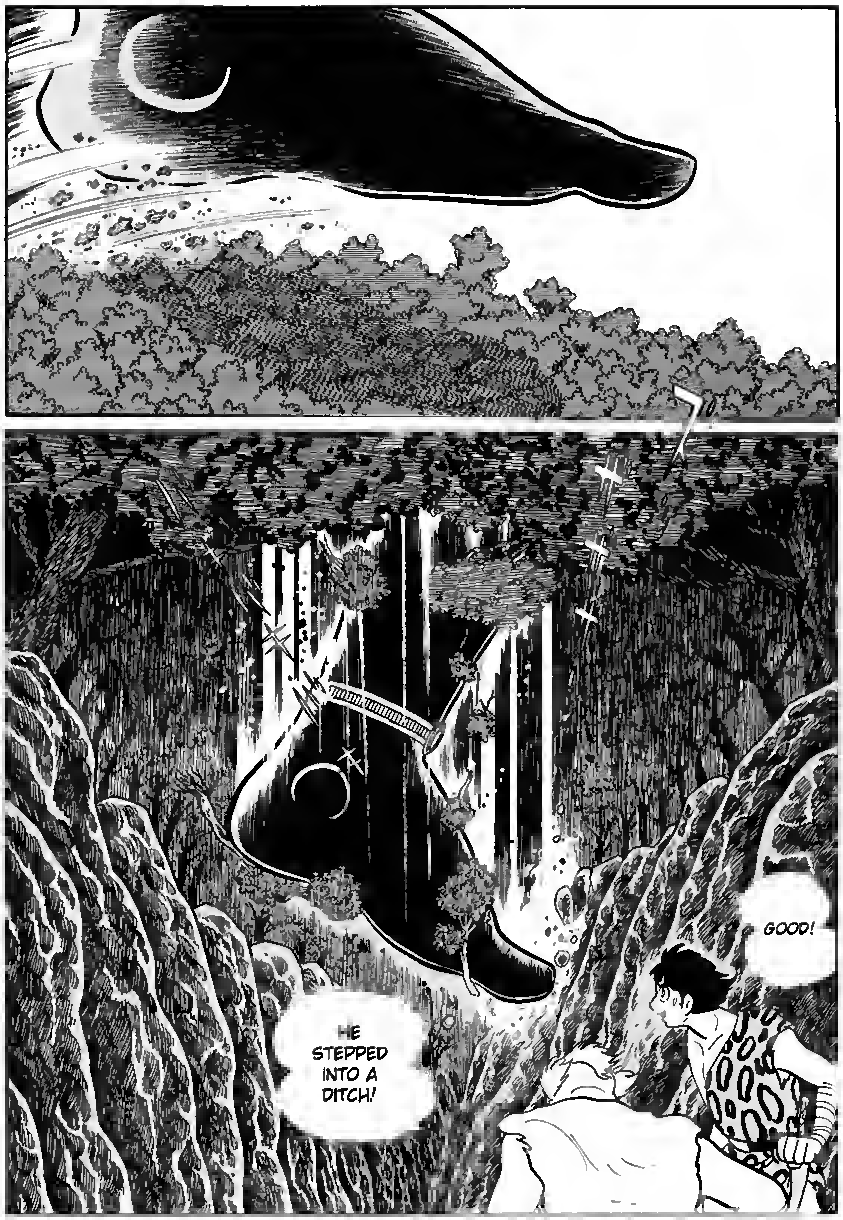
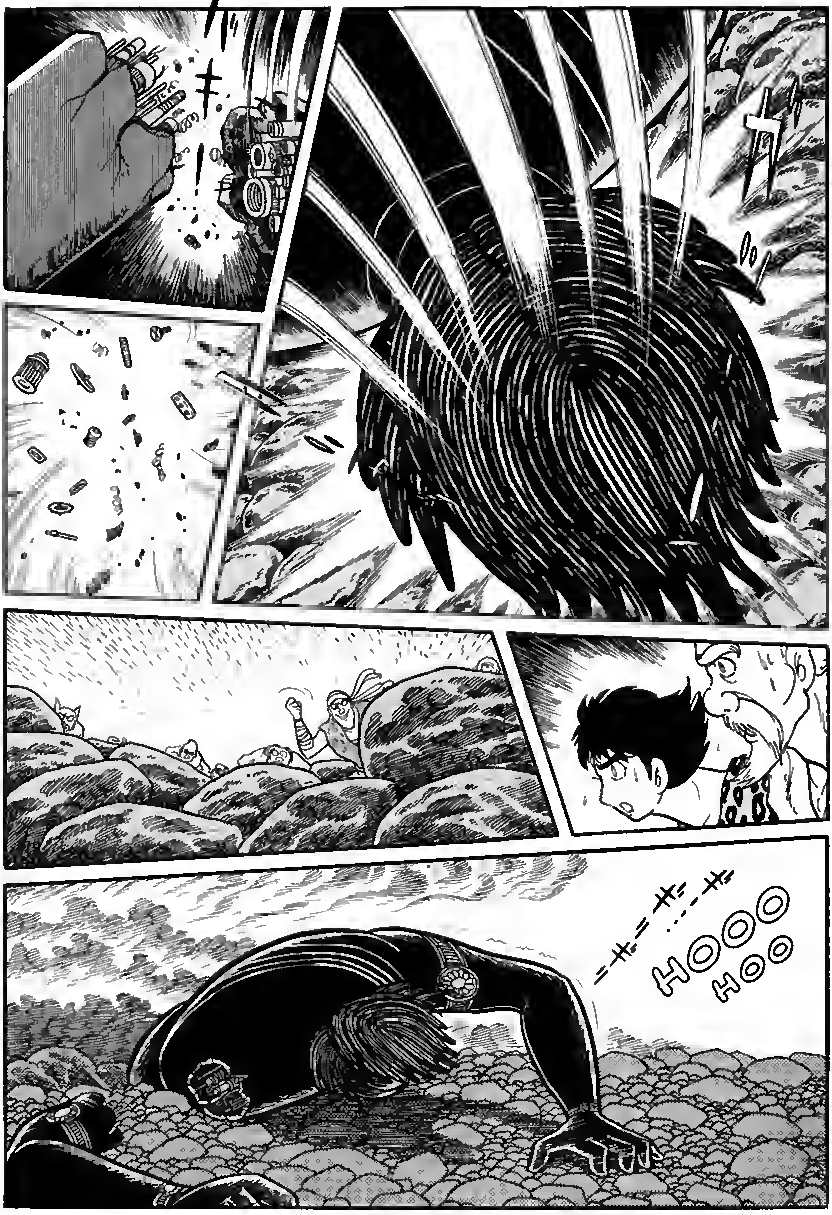
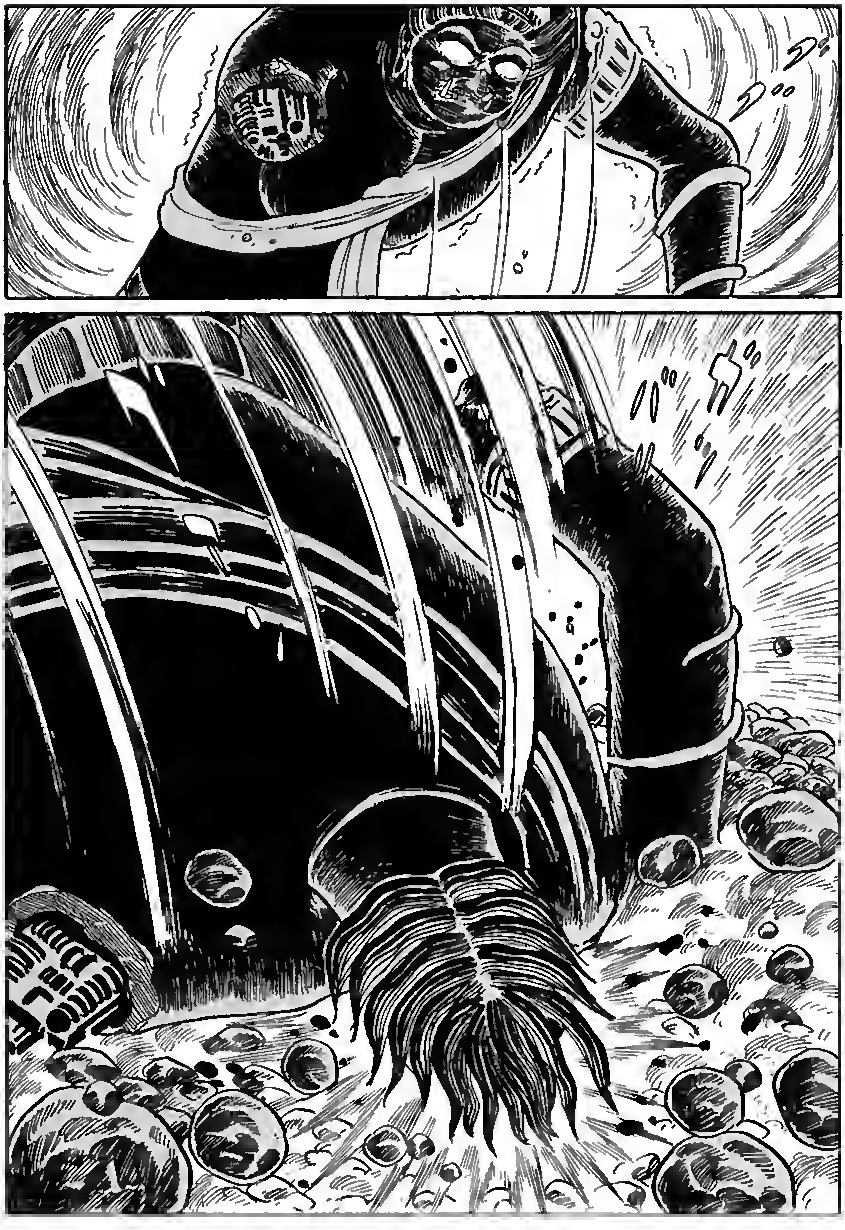
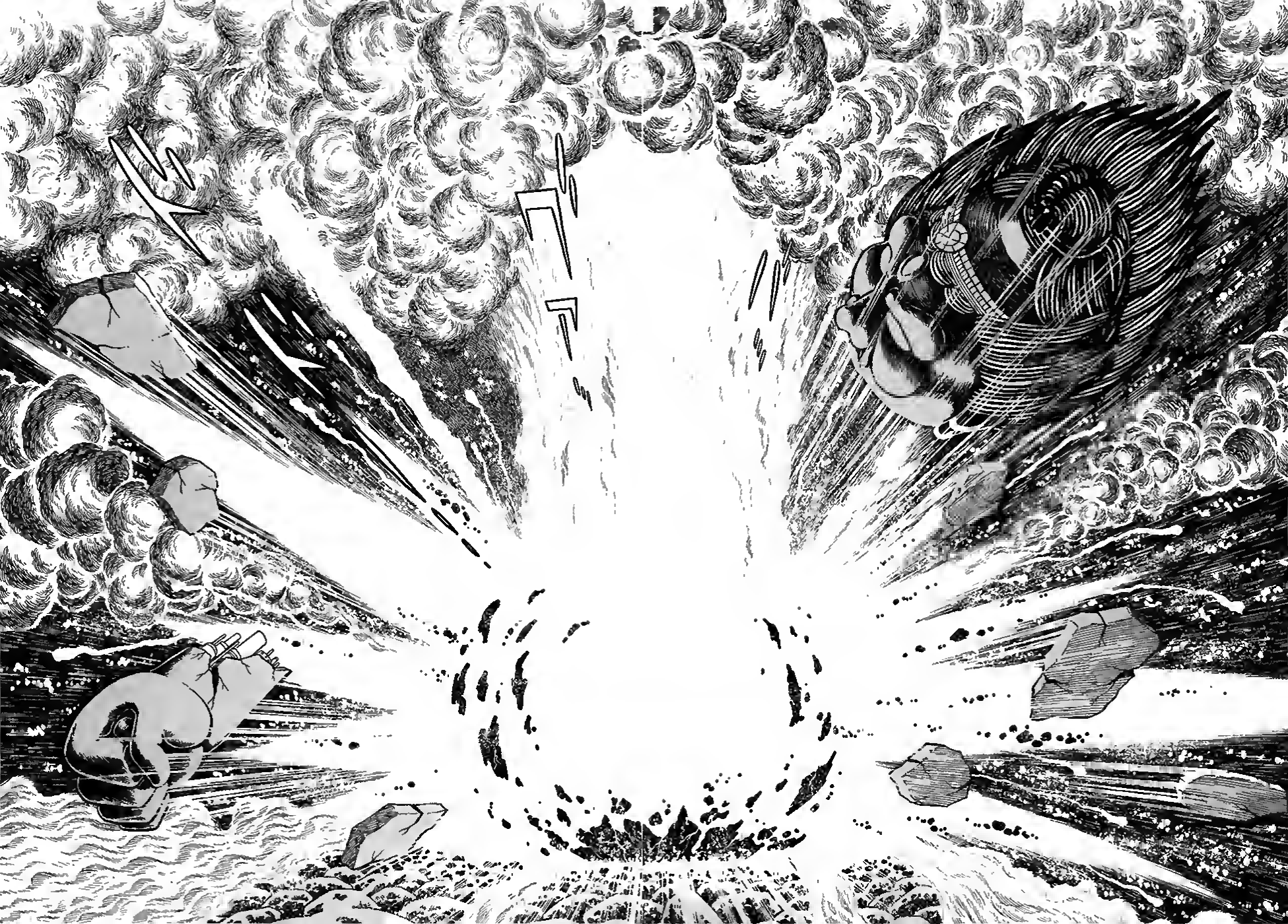
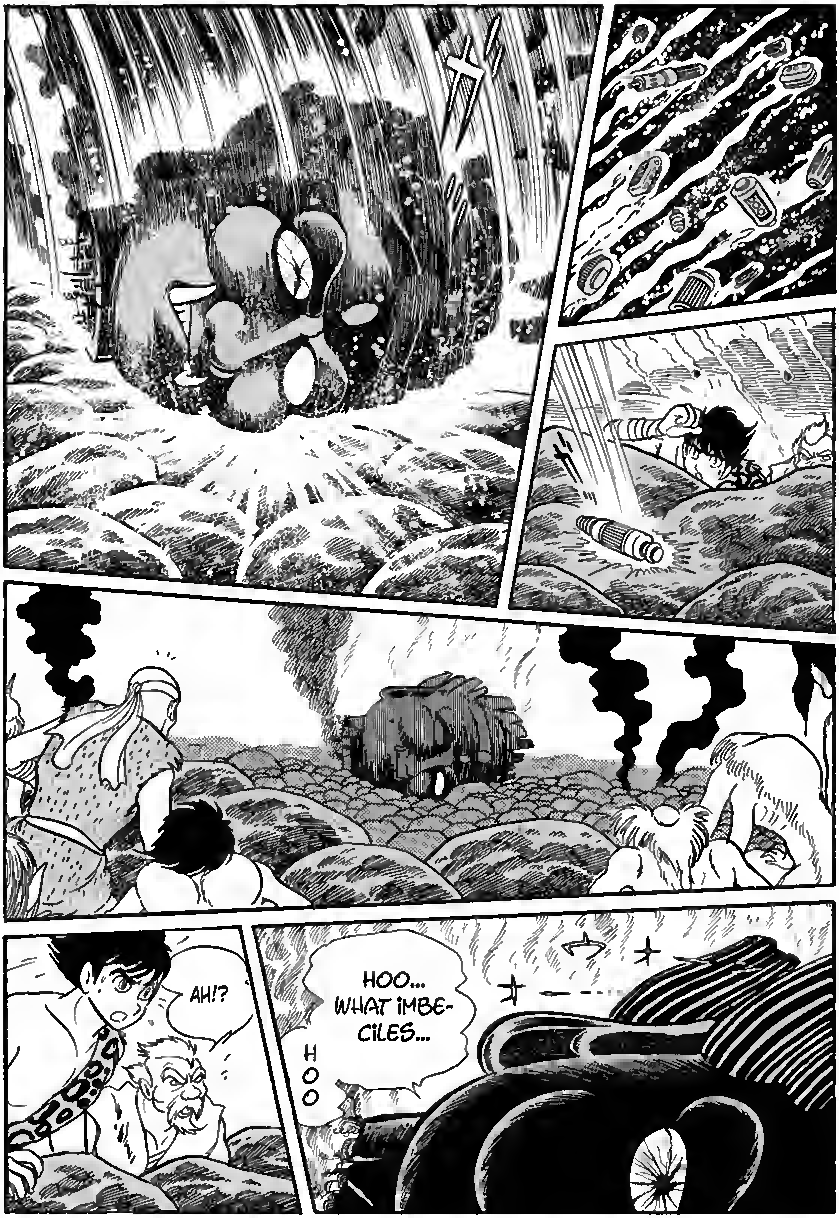

HE STEPPED INTO A DITCH!
GOOD!

IT'S FALL-ING!!

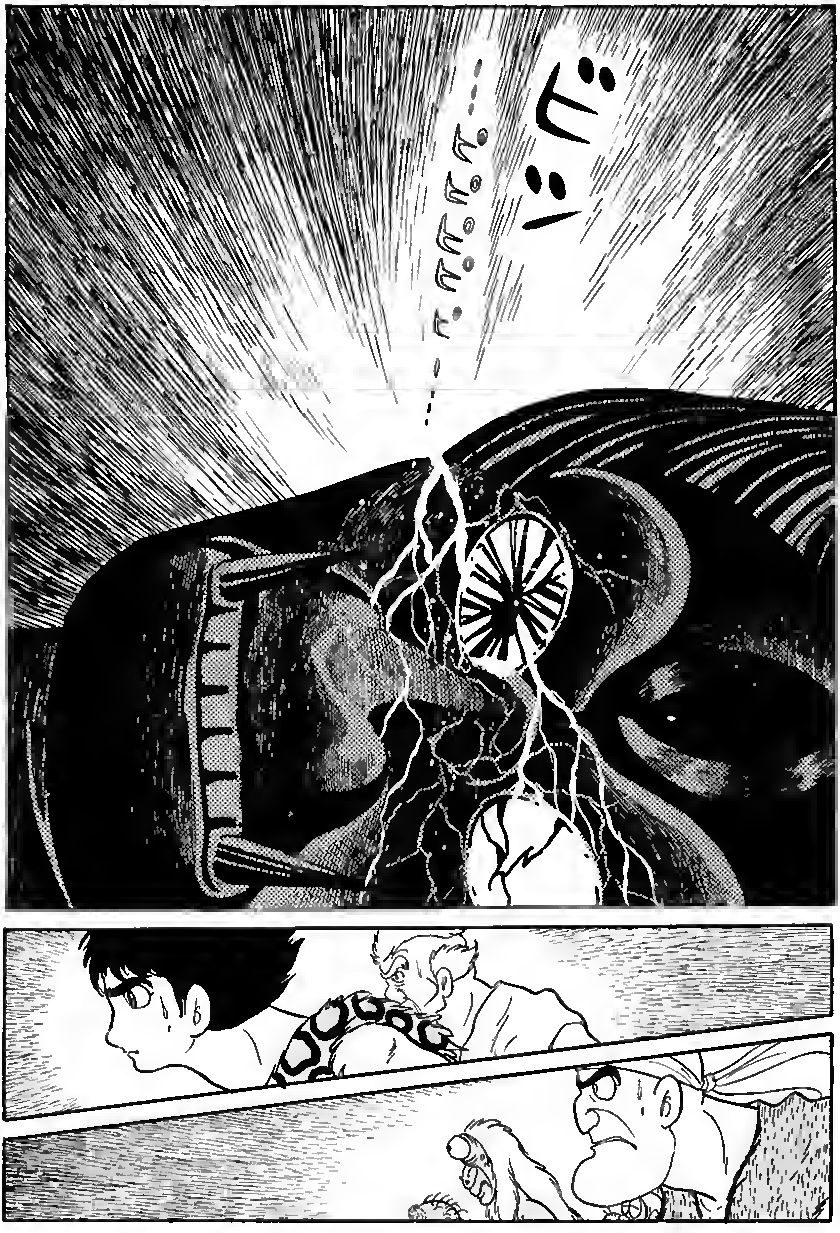

HOOO
HOO






HOO...
WHAT IMBE-
CILES...
HOO
AH!?

HOO HOO HOO
IT IS CERTAIN... THAT THE FIRE... FROM THE SKY... WILL FALL AGAIN!
FOR HUMANITY... TO NOT... PERISH...
I TRIED... TO SAVE YOU...
.....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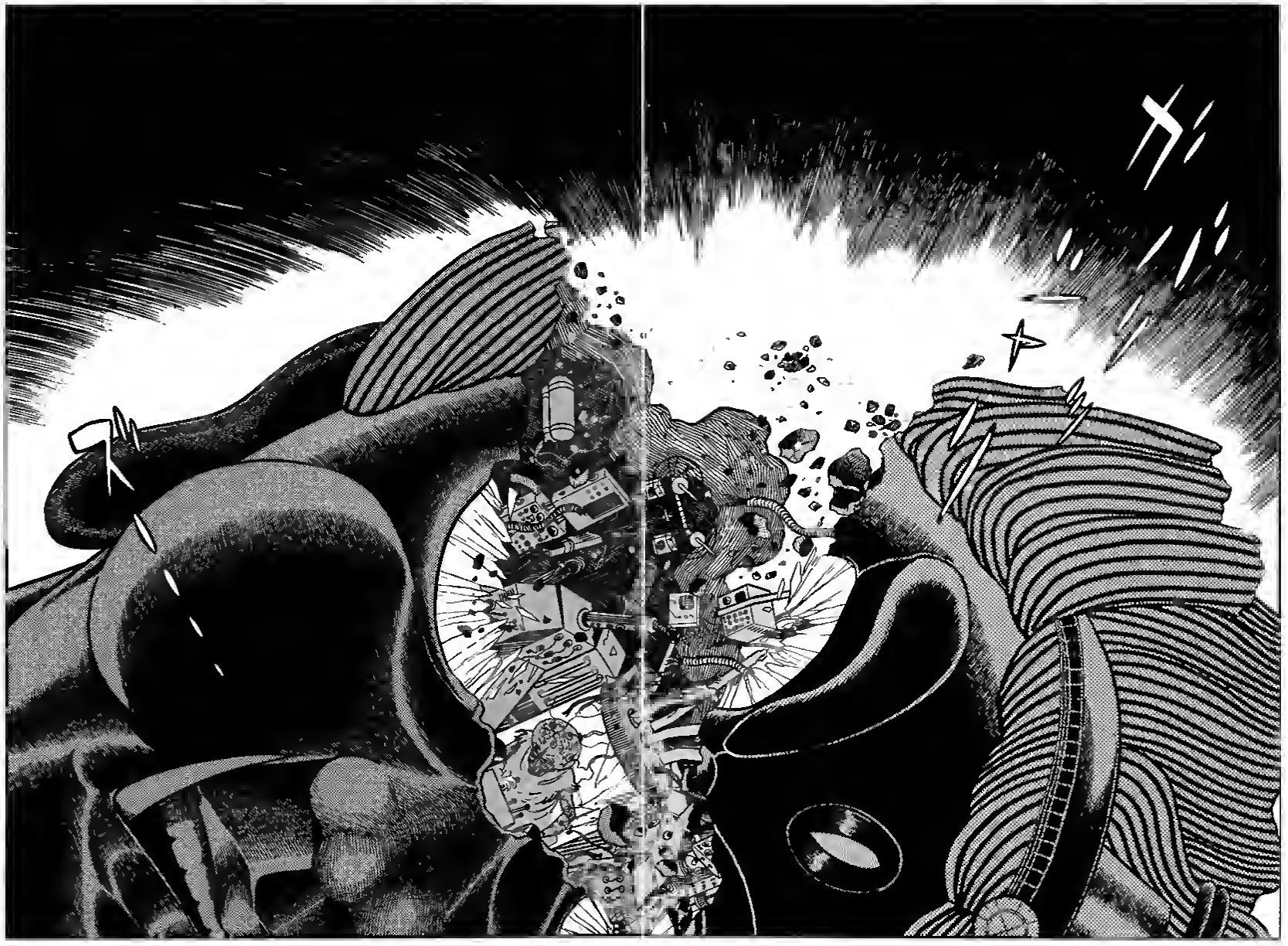
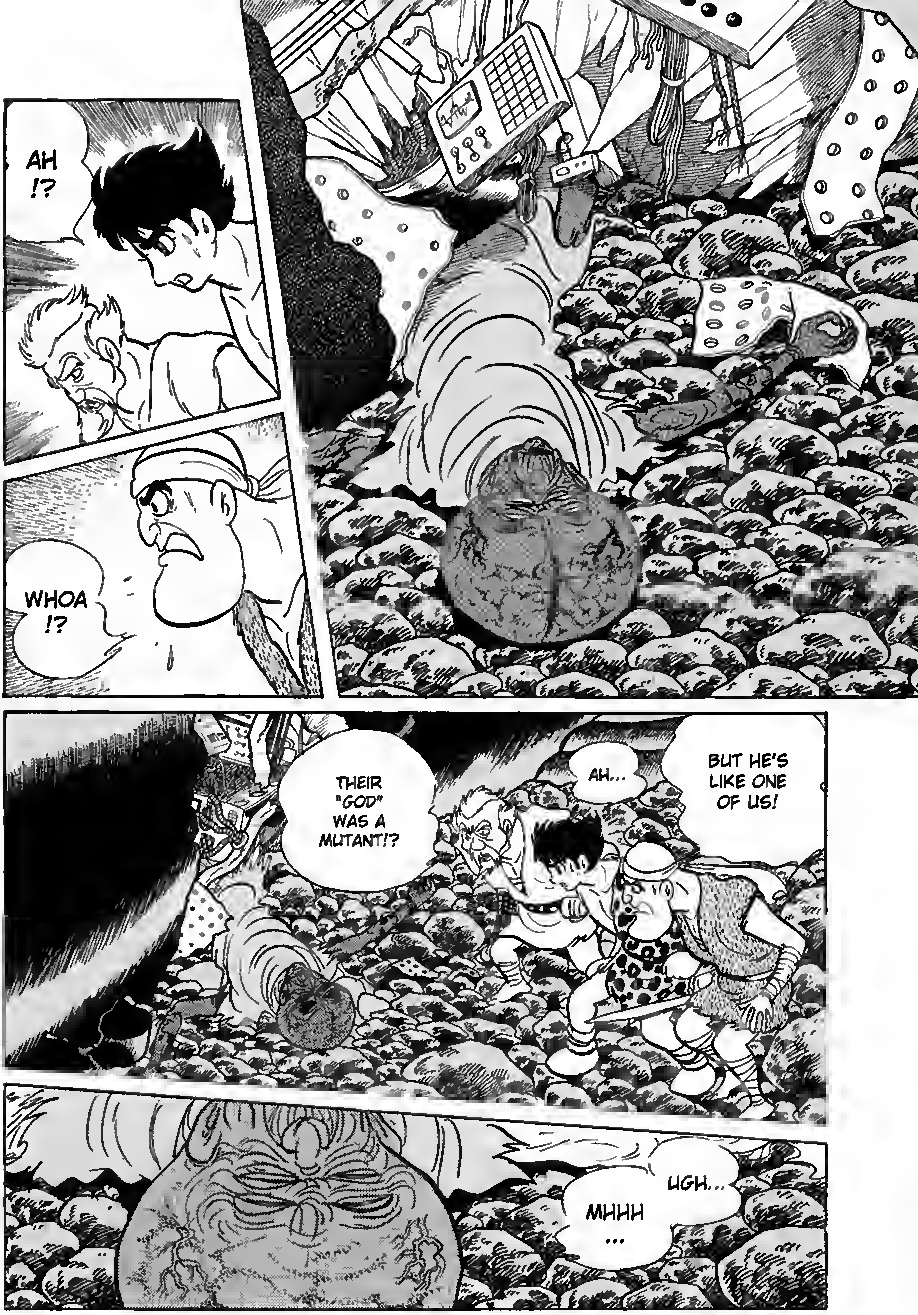
ビリビリビリ…

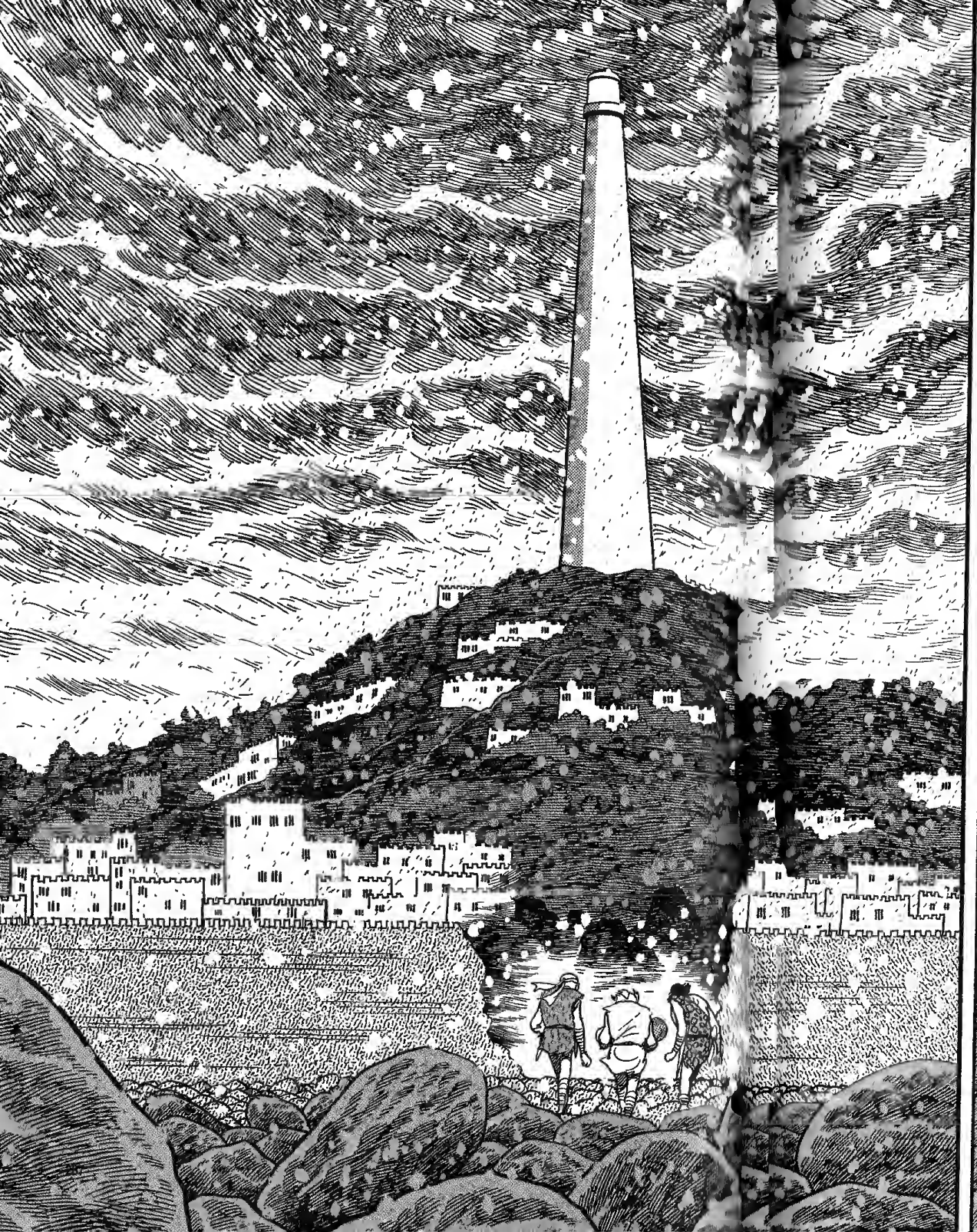


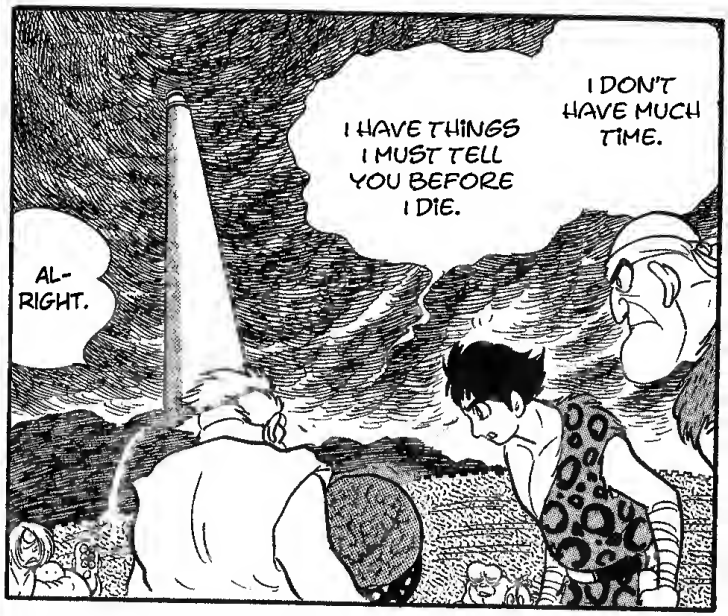

AH !?
WHOA !?
THEIR "GOD" WAS A MUTANT!?
AH...
BUT HE'S LIKE ONE OF US!
UGH...
MHHH ...

YOU TREAT US LIKE SHIT EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE ONE OF US!? TRAITOR!
WAIT!
STOP!
HE'S ALIVE!
GRRR... PIECE OF...
HELP ME...
GET HIM OUT.
AH...
HE'S GOT NO LEGS!?
HMM...
HMM !?
AH !?

WHO ARE YOU?
WHERE AM I?
WHAT WAS I DOING?
HEY...
HE DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING!
YOU WERE THE "GOD" WHO RULED THIS TOWN.
AND YOU WERE KILLING THE TOWNS-PEOPLE WITH A GIANT STATUE... WELL, A ROBOT.
AH! YES...
THAT'S IT...

HUH?
I AM SO OLD THAT I CANNOT EVEN CONTROL MY EMOTIONS ANYMORE...
SO... WHAT I FEARED HAS BECOME A REALITY...
I'VE BEEN WAITING... FOR A LONG TIME.
SO, YOU ARE RYU.
DO YOU KNOW ME!?
RYU.
WHAT!?
AH... URGH ...
AH...
PLEASE BRING ME TO THE TOWER OF LIGHT... I MEAN, THE LIGHTHOUSE...
HMM...
HEY, ARE YOU ALRIGHT ? DON'T DIE ON ME YET!

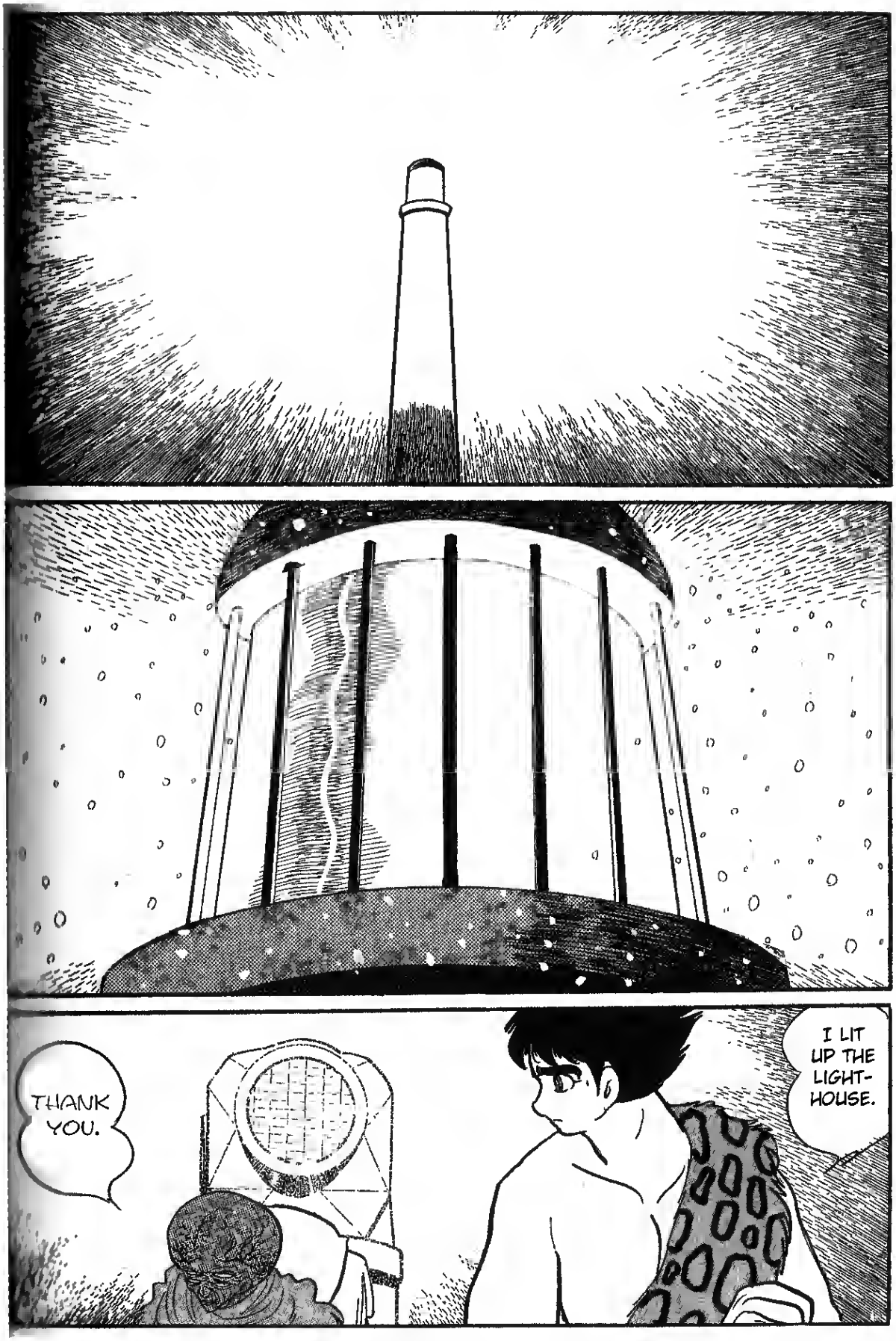


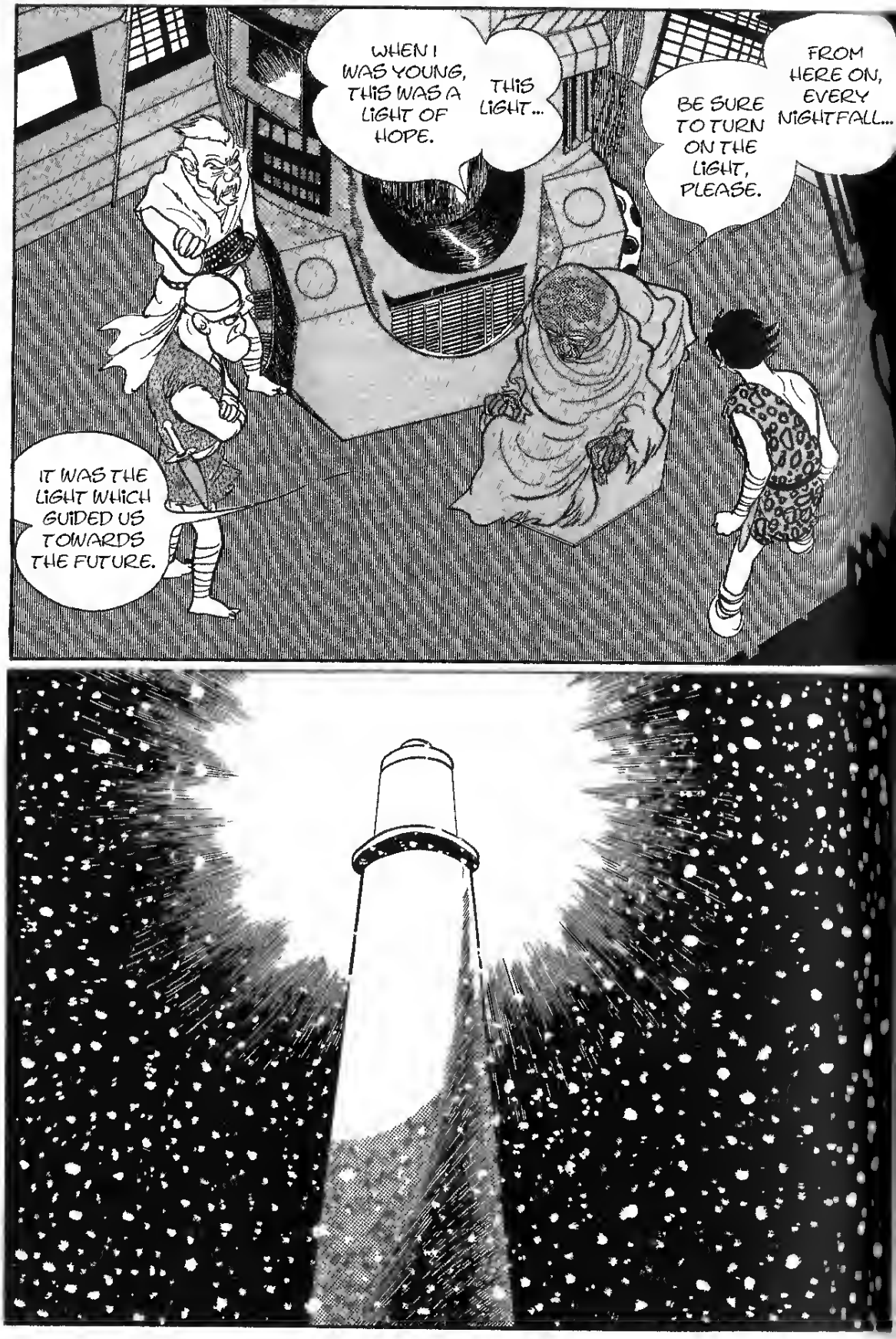

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
I HAVE THINGS I MUST TELL YOU BEFORE I DIE.
AL-RIGHT.

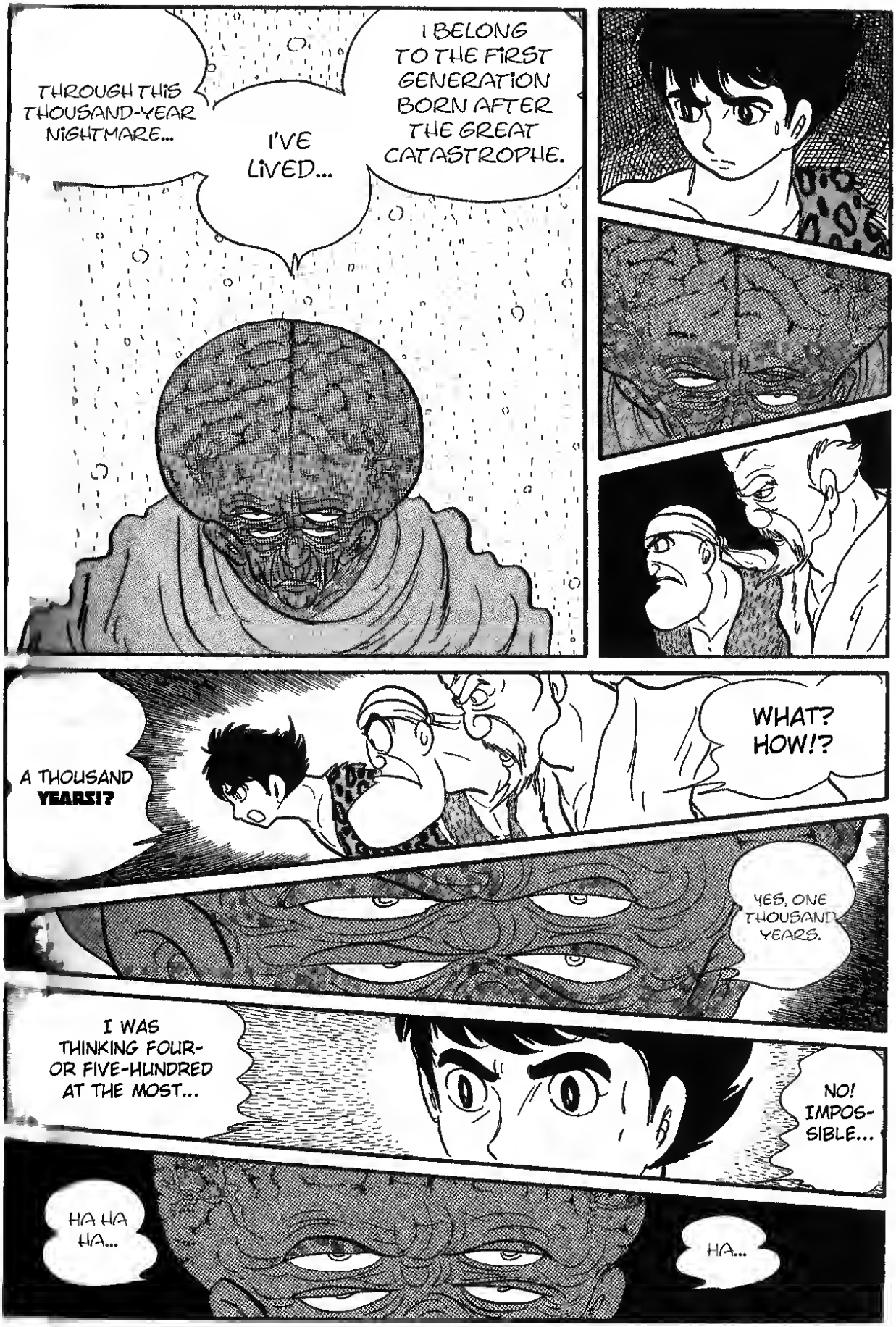
WHAT !?

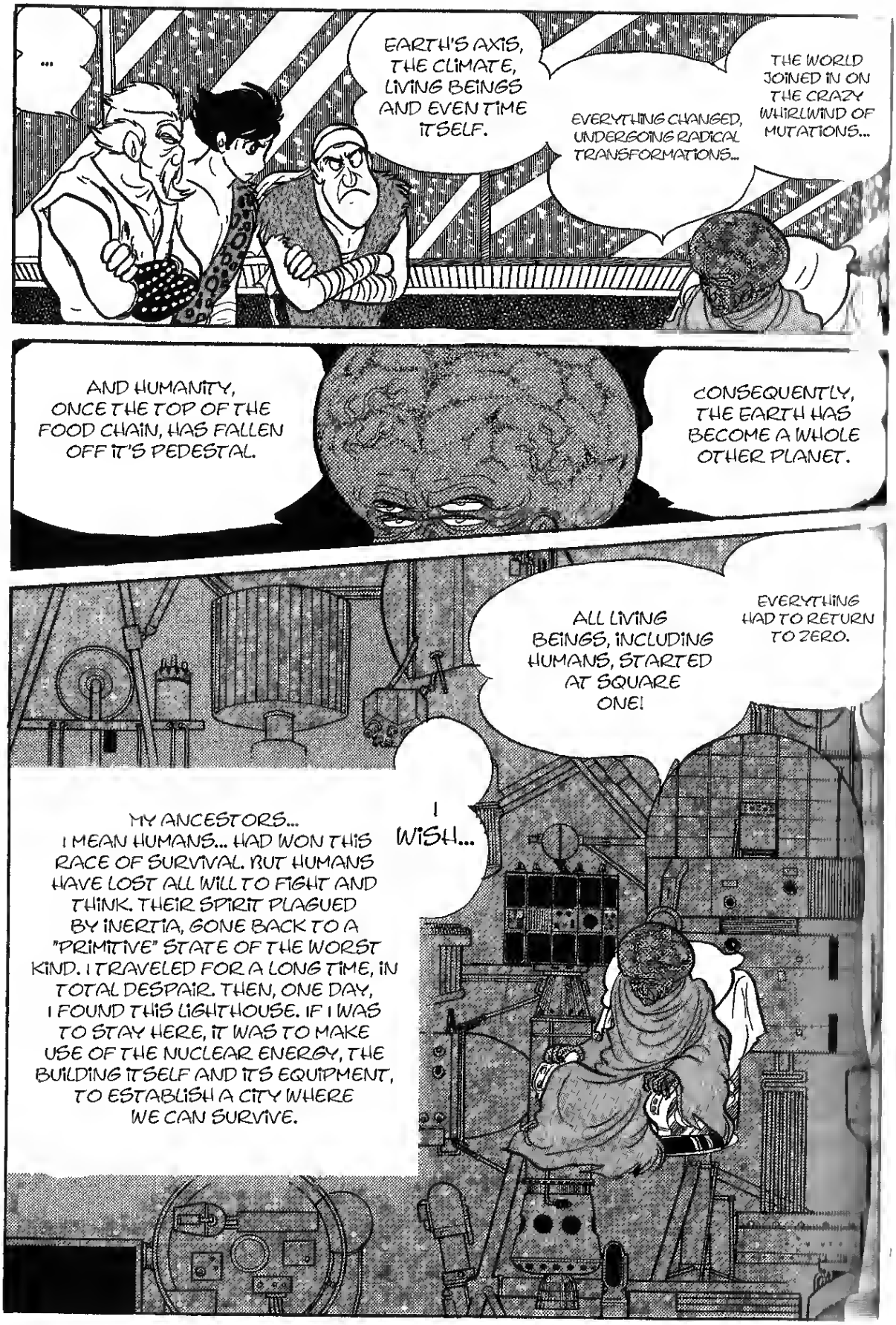
I WAS THINKING IT WAS STARTING TO GET COLD...
SNOW?
FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THAT!
LET'S GO, RYU!
IT'S SNOW!

CHAPTER 21:
HISTORY OF LIFE
AND DEATH


I LIT UP THE LIGHT-HOUSE.
THANK YOU.


WHEN I WAS YOUNG, THIS WAS A LIGHT OF HOPE.
THIS LIGHT...
FROM HERE ON, EVERY NIGHTFALL...
BE SURE TO TURN ON THE LIGHT, PLEASE.
IT WAS THE LIGHT WHICH GUIDED US TOWARDS THE FUTURE.

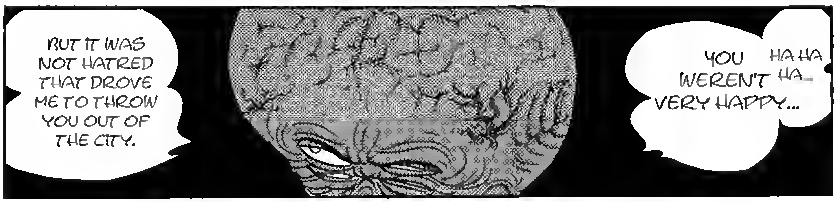

THROUGH THIS THOUSAND-YEAR NIGHTMARE...
I'VE LIVED...
I BELONG TO THE FIRST GENERATION BORN AFTER THE GREAT CATASTROPHE.
A THOUSAND YEARS!?
WHAT? HOW!?
YES, ONE THOUSAND YEARS.
I WAS THINKING FOUR- OR FIVE-HUNDRED AT THE MOST...
NO! IMPOS-SIBLE...
HA HA HA...
HA...


...
EARTH'S AXIS, THE CLIMATE, LIVING BEINGS AND EVEN TIME ITSELF.
EVERYTHING CHANGED, UNDERGOING RADICAL TRANSFORMATIONS...
THE WORLD JOINED IN ON THE CRAZY WHIRLWIND OF MUTATIONS...
AND HUMANITY, ONCE THE TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN, HAS FALLEN OFF IT'S PEDESTAL.
CONSEQUENTLY, THE EARTH HAS BECOME A WHOLE OTHER PLANET.
ALL LIVING BEINGS, INCLUDING HUMANS, STARTED AT SQUARE ONE!
EVERYTHING HAD TO RETURN TO ZERO.
I WISH...
MY ANCESTORS... I MEAN HUMANS... HAD WON THIS RACE OF SURVIVAL. BUT HUMANS HAVE LOST ALL WILL TO FIGHT AND THINK. THEIR SPIRIT PLAGUED BY INERTIA, GONE BACK TO A "PRIMITIVE" STATE OF THE WORST KIND. I TRAVELED FOR A LONG TIME, IN TOTAL DESPAIR. THEN, ONE DAY, I FOUND THIS LIGHTHOUSE. IF I WAS TO STAY HERE, IT WAS TO MAKE USE OF THE NUCLEAR ENERGY, THE BUILDING ITSELF AND ITS EQUIPMENT, TO ESTABLISH A CITY WHERE WE CAN SURVIVE.

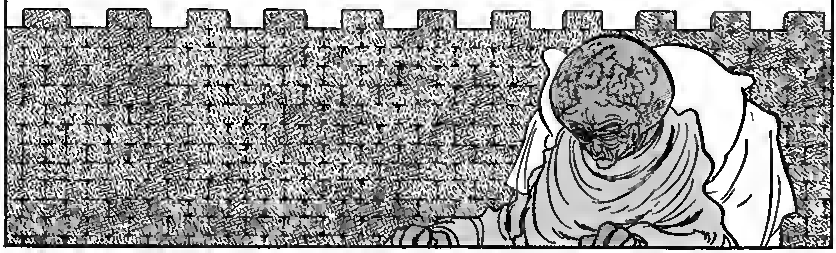
I THOUGHT IF I COULD ILLUMINATE THE LIGHTHOUSE, HUMANS WILL BE ATTRACTED TO IT, LIKE INSECTS TO A FIRE! I'D HOPED TO FIND THOSE WHO WERE CAPABLE OF LEADING HUMANITY INTO THE FUTURE. EVEN IF I DIDN'T FIND THEM RIGHT AWAY, THERE STILL REMAINED A CHANCE THEY WOULD COME IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WITH MY PROJECT, AS I PREDICTED, HUMANS HAD GATHERED AND SETTLED. BIT BY BIT A VILLAGE WAS BORN. AS FOR ME, FOR A LONG TIME I WAITED FOR THESE FUTURE MEN...

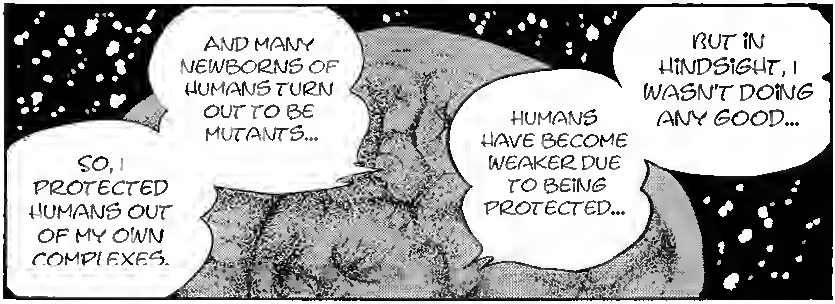
YES, I WAITED FOR A LONG TIME...

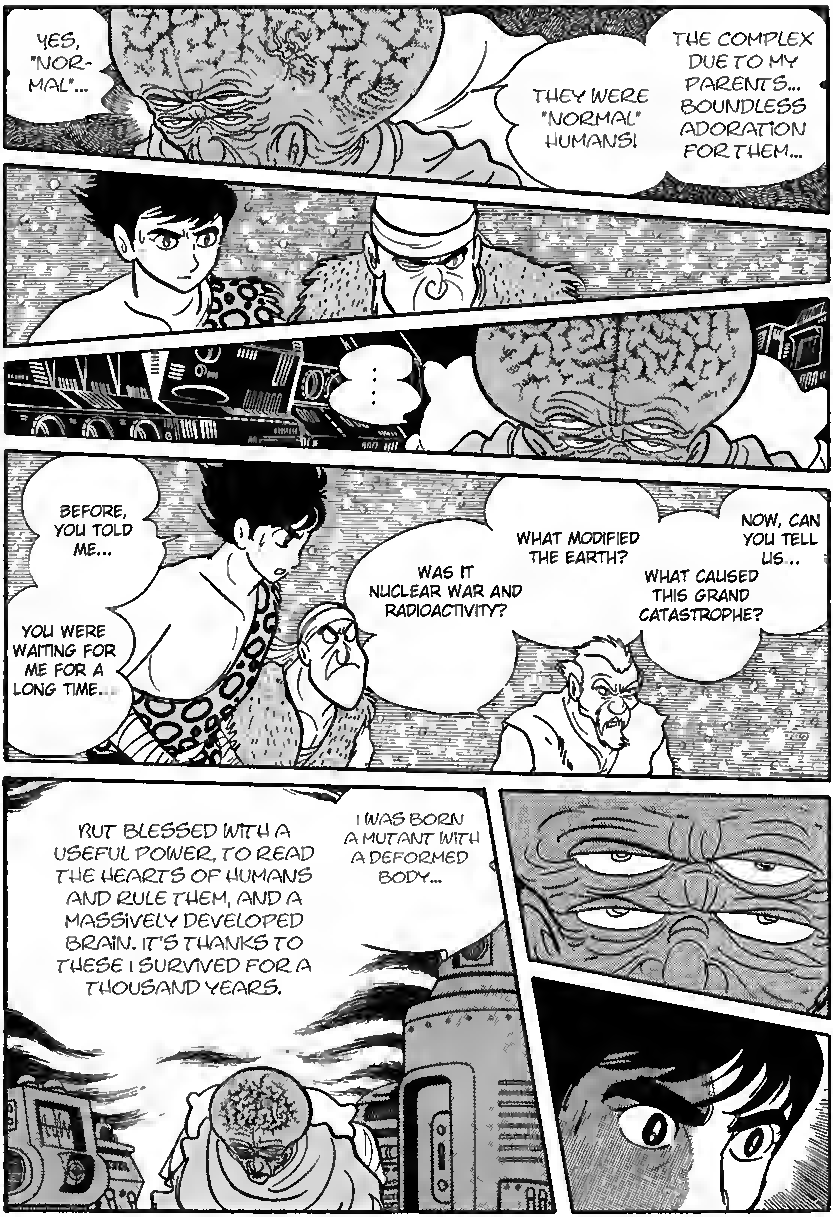
OVER TIME I BECAME A "GOD" AND I SELECTED THE NEWBORN HEIRS WITH "ORTHODOX" HUMAN BLOOD. I WORKED TO CREATE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR A HEALTHY RAISING. IT'S WHEN I HEARD OF THE APPEARANCE OF STRONG MEN, WHO COULD REHABILITATE THE HUMAN RACE, BUT IN THE PAST 1000 YEARS I HAVE ONLY ENCOUNTERED MUTANTS... OR ALMOST! IF THEY HAD "HUMAN" CAPABILITIES SUCH AS MYSELF IT WOULD COMFORT ME. BUT THEY WERE USELESS, THEY WERE SIMPLY DEFORMED. THEN THE "NORMAL" HUMANS CAME INTO THE WORLD, GROWING UP WITH NO DESIRES. THEY WERE SO WEAK AND FRAGILE!

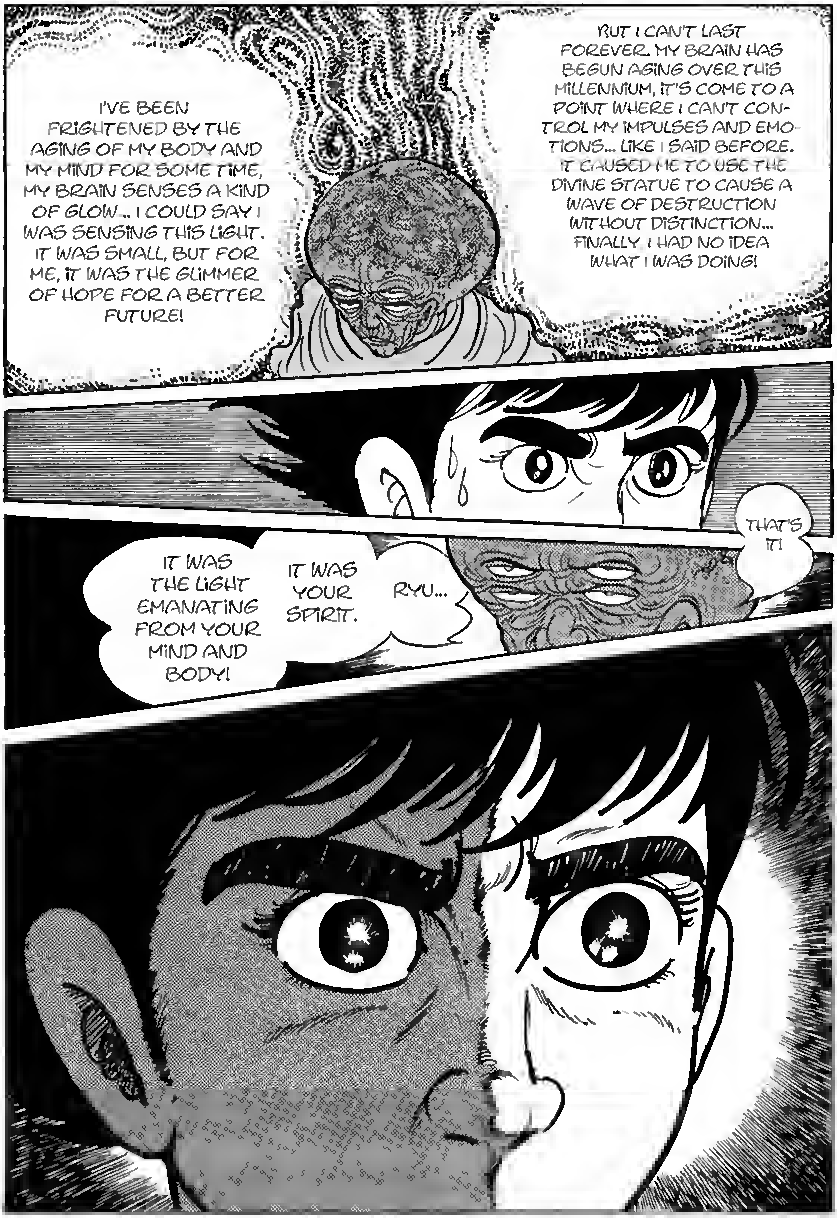


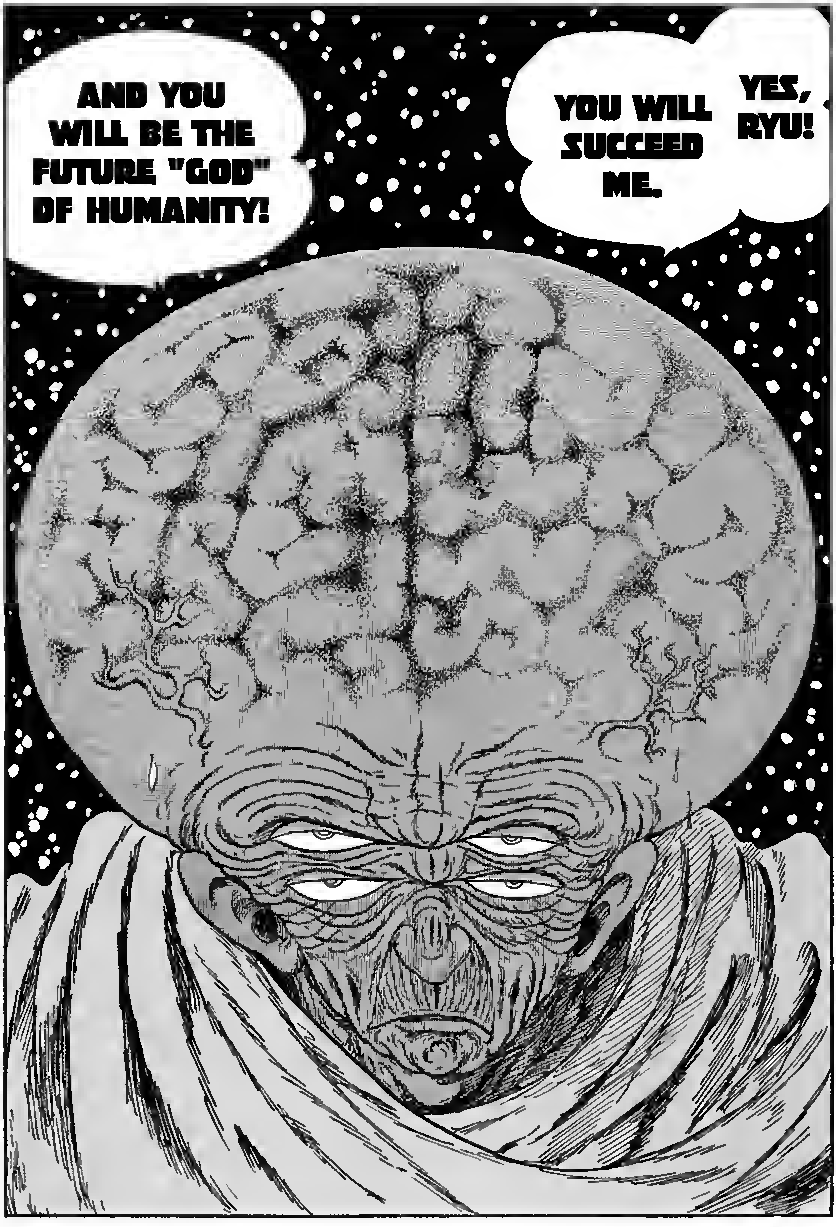
MUTANTS ARE JUST MUTANTS. LIKE MONKEYS, THEY ARE CLOSE, BUT NOT HUMANS! THEY ARE DIFFERENT FROM HOMO SAPIENS AND ARE A DIFFERENT SPECIES ENTIRELY, CERTAIN TO ALWAYS BE CLOSE TO HUMANS. BUT MOST DEPRESSING, IS MOST OF THEM HAVE A INFERIOR INTELLIGENCE COMPARED TO HUMANS... OR EVEN TO ANIMALS! IF THEY HAVE ONE THING GOING FOR THEM, IT'S THEIR STRENGTH AND WILL TO SURVIVE. JUST THE THING HUMANITY HAS LOST. I NOTICED THEY WERE MORE THAN CAPABLE OF SURVIVING OUTSIDE THE CITY, SO I THREW THEM OUT. I HOPED THEY WOULD CREATE THEIR OWN SOCIETY THAT WOULD LAST A LONG TIME... AND I WAS ALWAYS CERTAIN... THAT THEY WOULD BE MY OTHER HOPE FOR THE FUTURE! IN CONTRAST, HUMANS HAD TO BE PROTECTED, OR ELSE THEY WOULD DISAPPEAR. THIS BIAS WAS OBVIOUS, BUT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO SAD TO LET THEIR LINEAGE DIE OFF. AFTER ALL, THEY WERE THE DOMINANT SPECIES FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS!

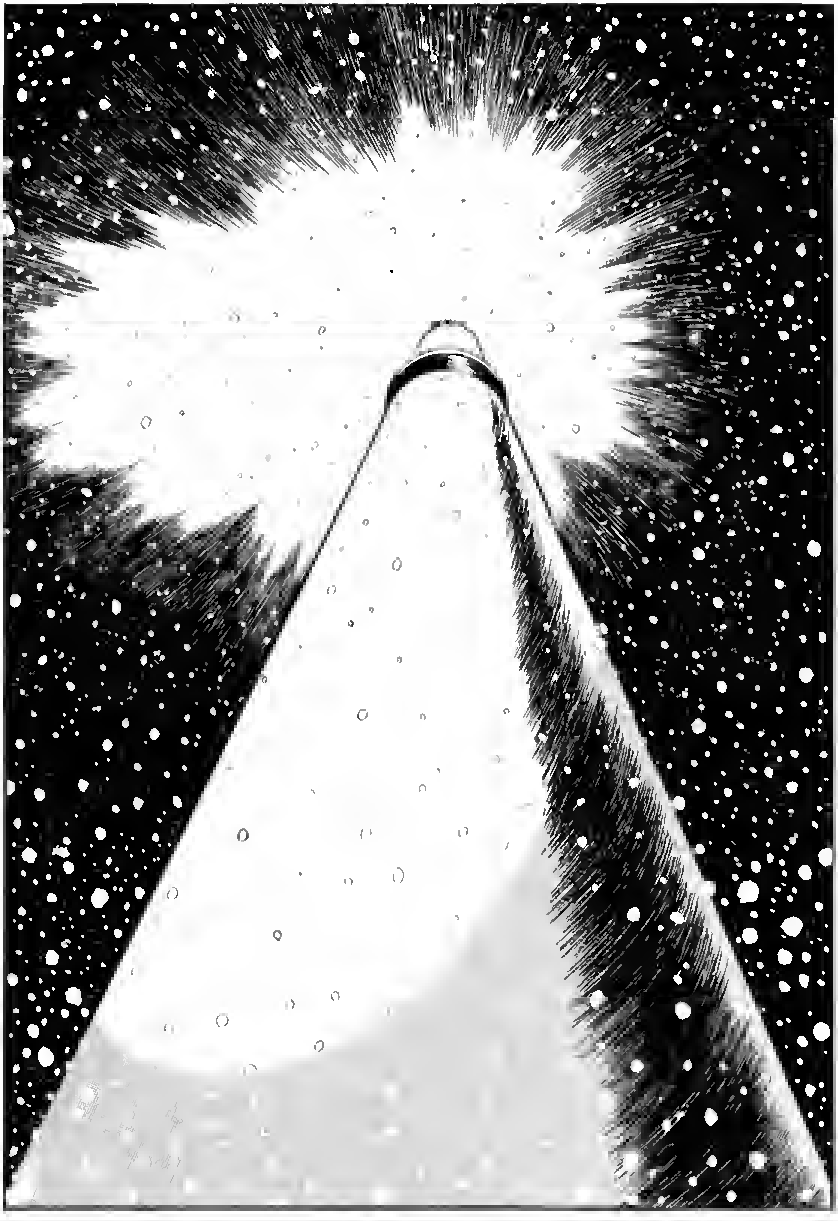



SO, I PROTECTED HUMANS OUT OF MY OWN COMPLEXES.
AND MANY NEWBORNS OF HUMANS TURN OUT TO BE MUTANTS...
HUMANS HAVE BECOME WEAKER DUE TO BEING PROTECTED...
BUT IN HINDSIGHT, I WASN'T DOING ANY GOOD...

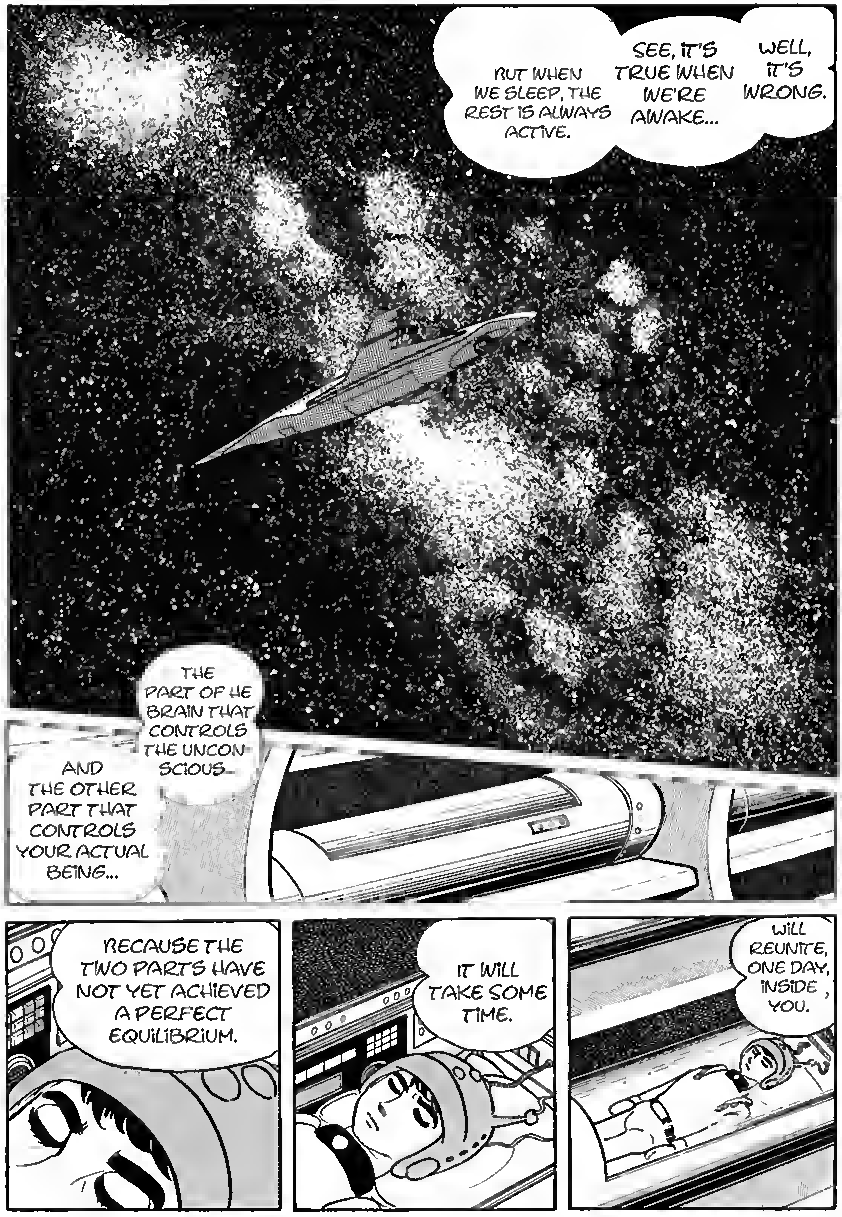

YES, "NORMAL"...
THEY WERE "NORMAL" HUMANS!
THE COMPLEX DUE TO MY PARENTS... BOUNDLESS ADORATION FOR THEM...
BEFORE, YOU TOLD ME...
YOU WERE WAITING FOR ME FOR A LONG TIME...
WAS IT NUCLEAR WAR AND RADIOACTIVITY?
WHAT MODIFIED THE EARTH?
WHAT CAUSED THIS GRAND CATASTROPHE?
NOW, CAN YOU TELL US...
I WAS BORN A MUTANT WITH A DEFORMED BODY...
BUT BLESSED WITH A USEFUL POWER, TO READ THE HEARTS OF HUMANS AND RULE THEM, AND A MASSIVELY DEVELOPED BRAIN. IT'S THANKS TO THESE I SURVIVED FOR A THOUSAND YEARS.

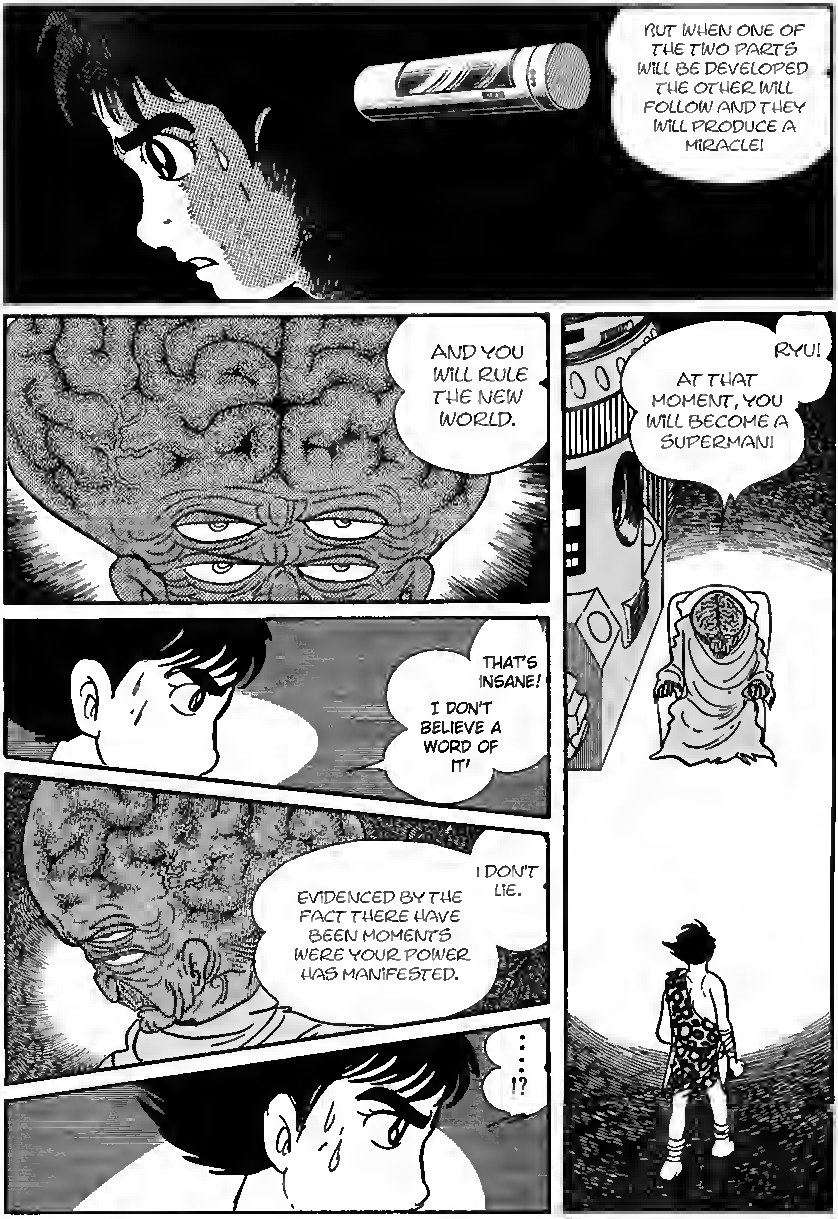

I'VE BEEN FRIGHTENED BY THE AGING OF MY BODY AND MY MIND FOR SOME TIME. MY BRAIN SENSES A KIND OF GLOW... I COULD SAY I WAS SENSING THIS LIGHT. IT WAS SMALL, BUT FOR ME, IT WAS THE GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE!
BUT I CAN'T LAST FOREVER. MY BRAIN HAS BEGUN AGING OVER THIS MILLENNIUM, IT'S COME TO A POINT WHERE I CAN'T CONTROL MY IMPULSES AND EMOTIONS... LIKE I SAID BEFORE. IT CAUSED HE TO USE THE DIVINE STATUE TO CAUSE A WAVE OF DESTRUCTION WITHOUT DISTINCTION... FINALLY, I HAD NO IDEA WHAT I WAS DOING!
THAT'S IT!
RYU...
IT WAS YOUR SPIRIT.
IT WAS THE LIGHT EMANATING FROM YOUR MIND AND BODY!


AND YOU WILL BE THE FUTURE "GOD" OF HUMANITY!
YOU WILL SUCCEED ME.
YES, RYU!

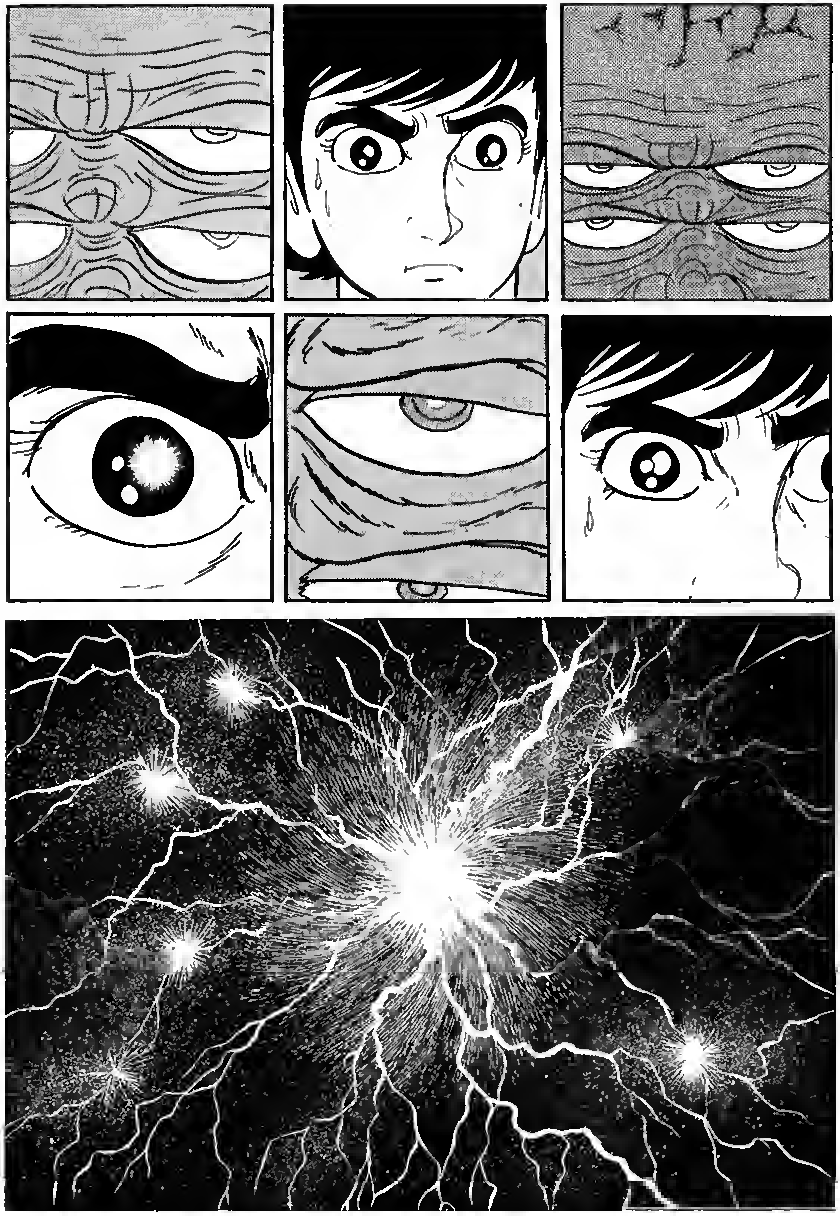


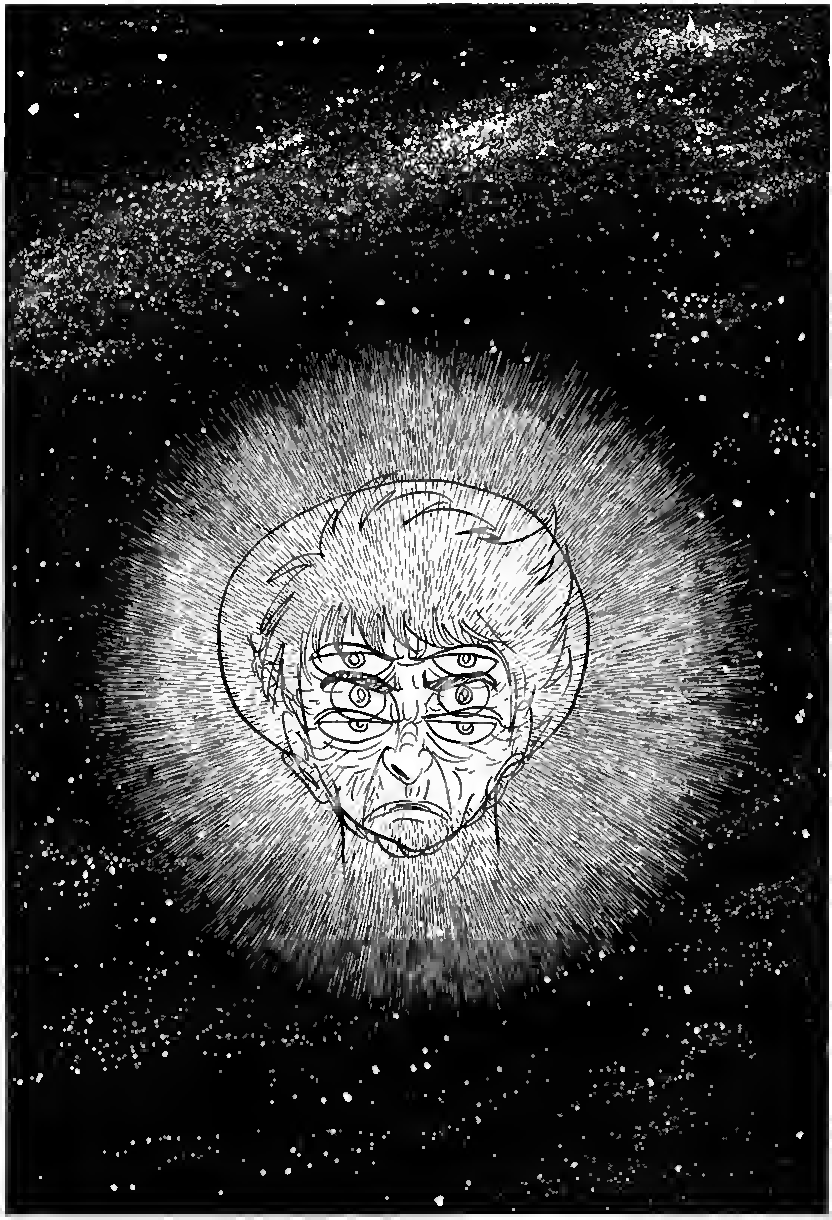
WHAT ARE YOU...
YOU WILL BECOME A "GOD".
YOUR MIND, ALTHOUGH YOU DON'T REALIZE IT, HAS AN INSURMOUNTABLE POTENTIAL AND I CAN SEE IT AS CLEAR AS DAY! YOUR GIFT, ALL THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WAS GIVEN TO YOU IN YOUR CRYOGENIC SLEEP. ONE OF THE SHIP'S CREW MEMBERS PITIED YOU BEING TRAPPED IN A LONG LASTING SLEEP. HE ALSO WANTED TO KNOW WHAT WOULD COME OF HIS EXPERIMENT. SO HE BEGUN THIS PERMANENT, HYPNOTIC EDUCATION. ONE WHICH ACTED ON YOUR UNCONSCIOUS SELF AND SHOWED MIRACULOUS RESULTS!
IT IS SAID MAN ONLY USES 10% OF HIS BRAIN CAPACITY.

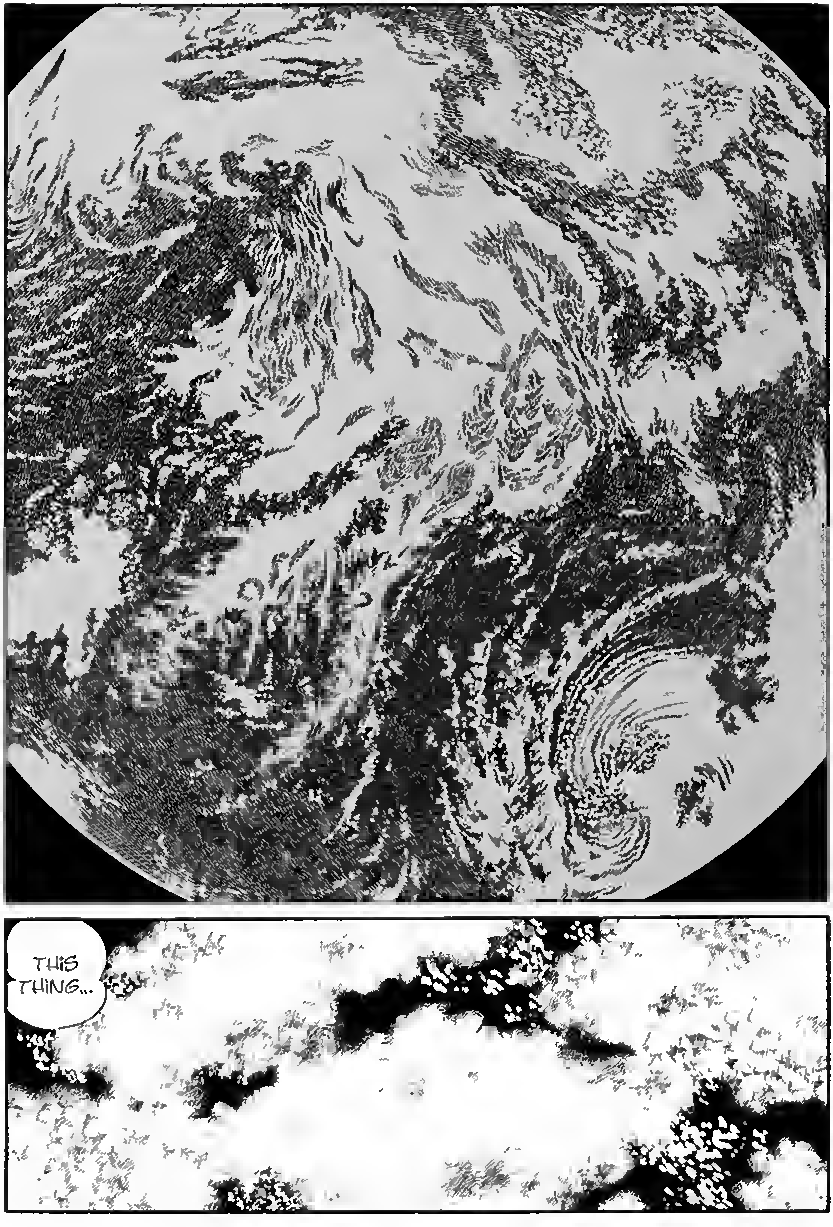

WELL, IT'S WRONG.
SEE, IT'S TRUE WHEN WE'RE AWAKE...
BUT WHEN WE SLEEP, THE REST IS ALWAYS ACTIVE.
THE PART OF HE BRAIN THAT CONTROLS THE UNCON-SCIOUS-
AND THE OTHER PART THAT CONTROLS YOUR ACTUAL BEING...
BECAUSE THE TWO PARTS HAVE NOT YET ACHIEVED A PERFECT EQUILIBRIUM.
IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME.
WILL REUNITE, ONE DAY, INSIDE YOU.


BUT WHEN ONE OF THE TWO PARTS WILL BE DEVELOPED THE OTHER WILL FOLLOW AND THEY WILL PRODUCE A MIRACLE!
AND YOU WILL RULE THE NEW WORLD.
RYU!
AT THAT MOMENT, YOU WILL BECOME A SUPERMAN!
THAT'S INSANE!
I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT!
I DON'T LIE.
EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THERE HAVE BEEN MOMENTS WERE YOUR POWER HAS MANIFESTED.
.....!?

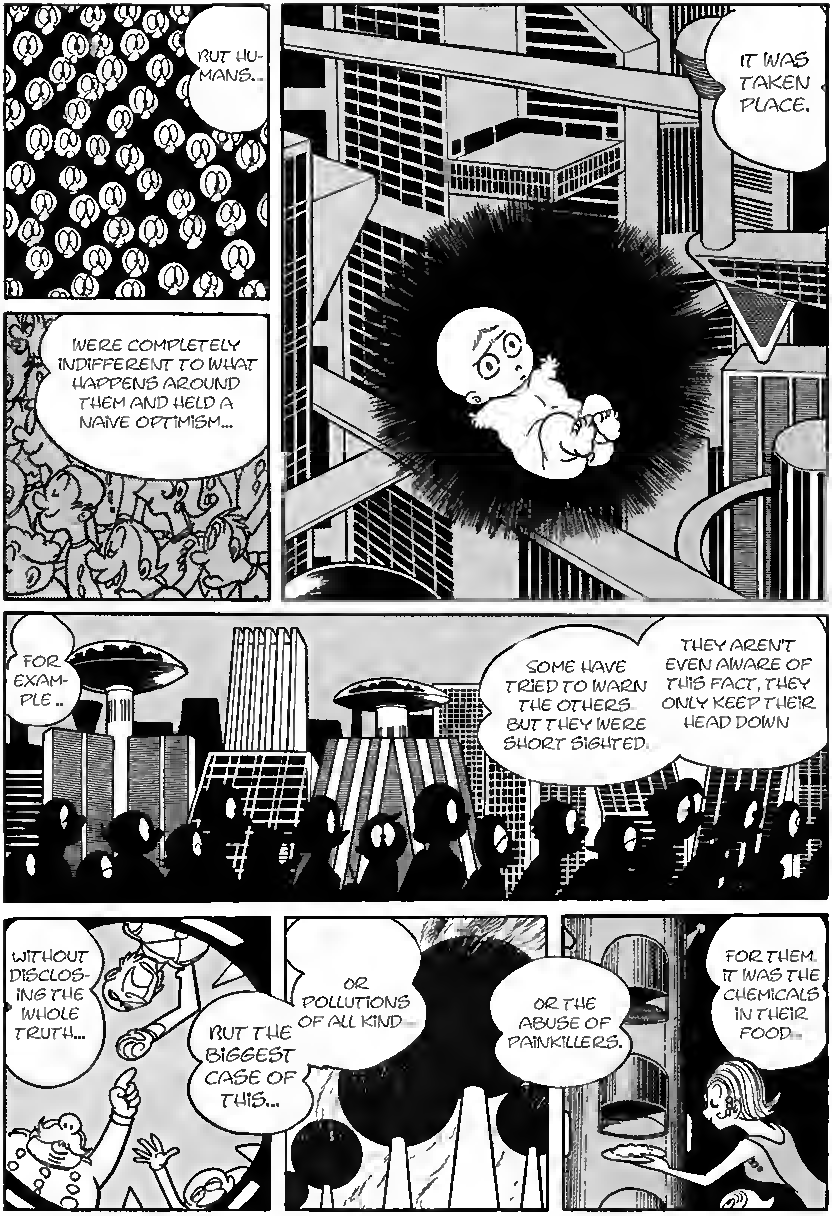
YOU HEARD THE MESSAGE I SENT YOU FROM FAR AWAY.
THERE WAS THE TIME WHEN ..
YOU KNOW HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH MUTANTS WITHOUT SPEAKING THEIR LANGUAGE
LOOK! DON'T YOU SEE?
AH!
THAT TIME!
IT'S WRONG!
THE EARTH ISN'T CRAZY.
I'M TOO TIRED TO CONTINUE.
YOU REMEMBER?
NOW, TALK FOR ME..
I'M GOING TO TRANSFER TO YOU EVERY IMAGE OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE OLD WORLD AND THE EMERGENCE OF THE NEW ONE.
HUH?






THIS THING...

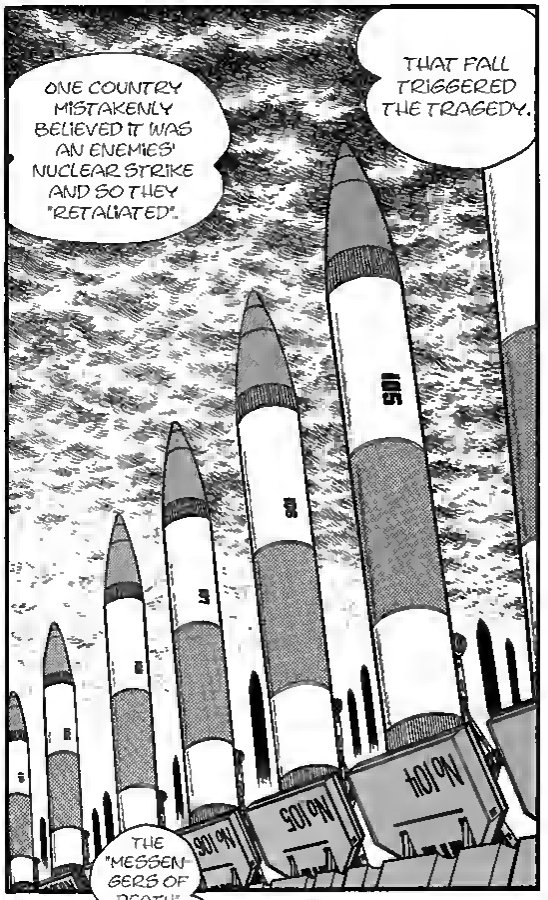
STARTED LITTLE BY LITTLE...
ALL AROUND THE WORLD.


BUT HUMANS...
WERE COMPLETELY INDIFFERENT TO WHAT HAPPENS AROUND THEM AND HELD A NAIVE OPTIMISM...
IT WAS TAKEN PLACE.
FOR EXAMPLE..
SOME HAVE TRIED TO WARN THE OTHERS. BUT THEY WERE SHORT SIGHTED.
THEY AREN'T EVEN AWARE OF THIS FACT, THEY ONLY KEEP THEIR HEAD DOWN
WITHOUT DISCLOSING THE WHOLE TRUTH...
BUT THE BIGGEST CASE OF THIS...
OR POLLUTIONS OF ALL KIND...
OR THE ABUSE OF PAINKILLERS.
FOR THEM. IT WAS THE CHEMICALS IN THEIR FOOD...

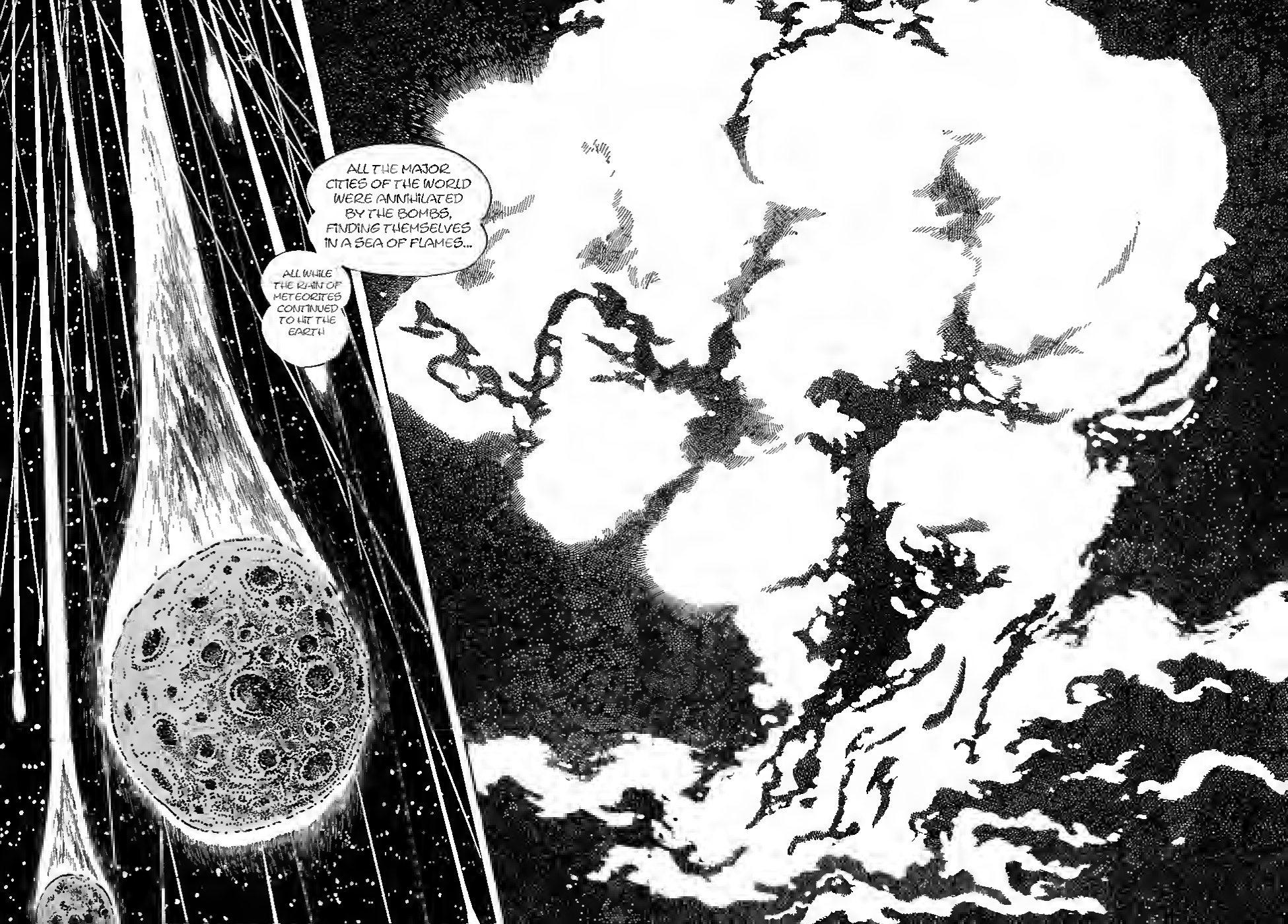
BUT THAT TOO WAS A BIG MISTAKE.
IT'S TRUE IT LOOKS LIKE THE CAUSE.
ABOUT THE RADIOACTIVE DUST FROM NUCLEAR TEST CONDUCTED BY MAJOR WORLD POWERS.
WHAT A MISTAKE!
SO, THEY FORGOT.
ANYWAYS, THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WERE INDIFFERENT.

AND ONE DAY...
A METEORITE...
CAME FROM SPACE

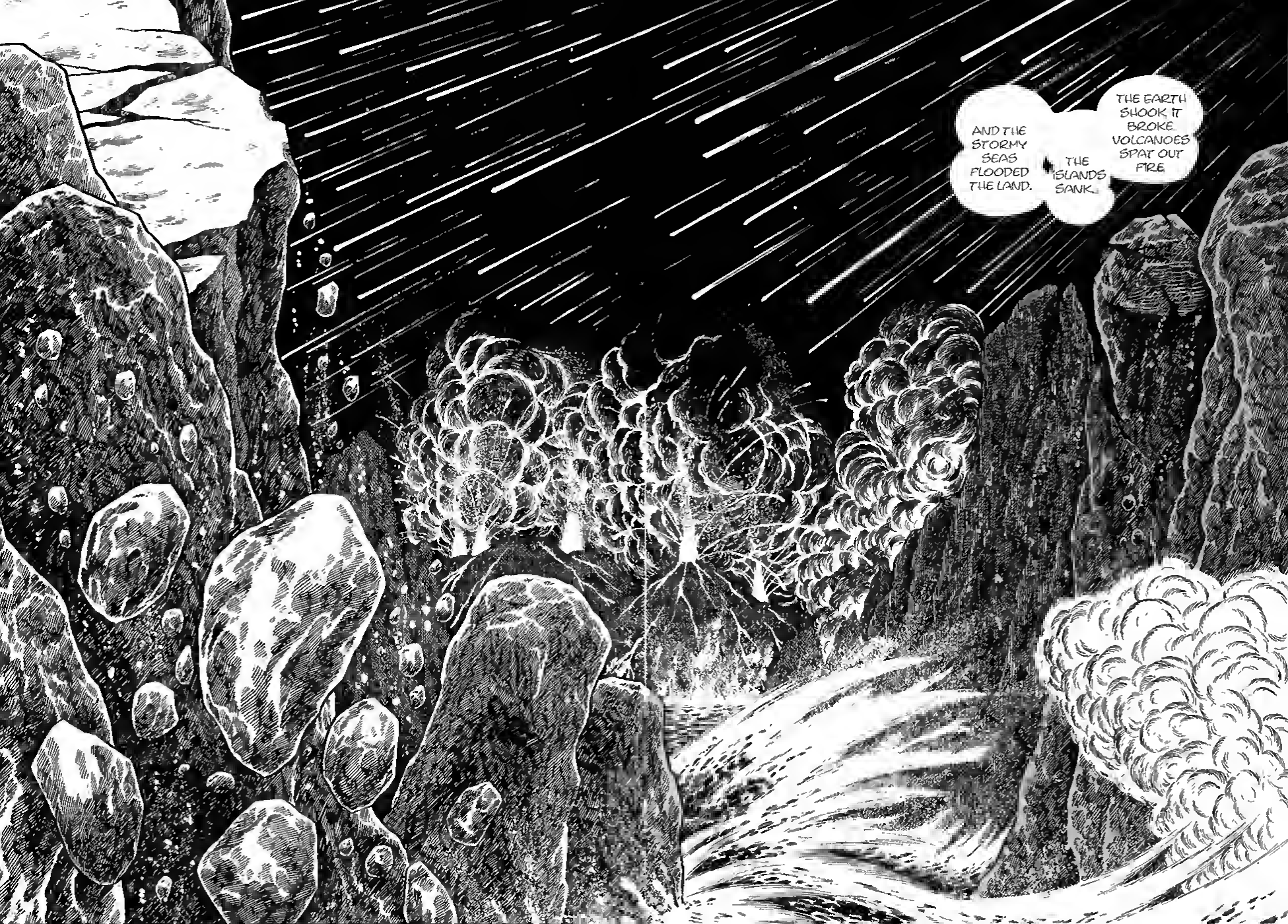
IT WAS CLEAR THEY WERE LAUNCHING NUCLEAR MISSILES.
IF THEY NEVER DID IT...

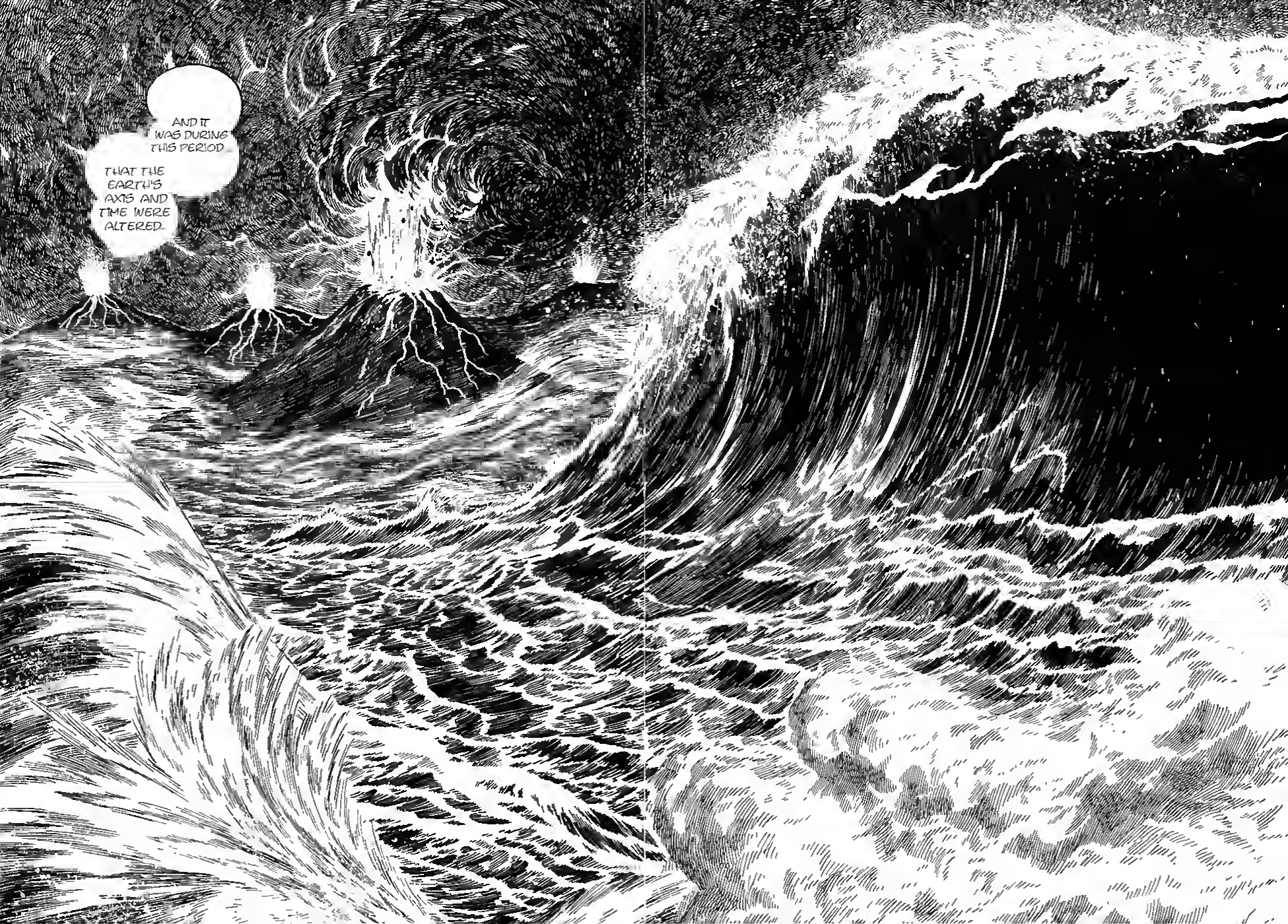

ONE COUNTRY MISTAKENLY BELIEVED IT WAS AN ENEMIES' NUCLEAR STRIKE AND SO THEY "RETALIATED".
THAT FALL TRIGGERED THE TRAGEDY.
No 105
No 105
No 105

THE "MESSENGERS OF DEATH" FLEW THROUGH THE SKIES
UNDER A STORM OF METEORITES MESSENGERS OF LIFE!
THE NEW WORLD WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SO DEVASTATED


ALL THE MAJOR CITIES OF THE WORLD WERE ANNIHILATED BY THE BOMBS, FINDING THEMSELVES IN A SEA OF FLAMES...
ALL WHILE THE RAIN OF METEORITES CONTINUED TO HIT THE EARTH!

IT LASTED 7 DAYS AND 7 NIGHTS.


THE EARTH SHOOK, IT BROKE. VOLCANOES SPAT OUT FIRE.
THE ISLANDS SANK.
AND THE STORMY SEAS FLOODED THE LAND.


AND IT WAS DURING THIS PERIOD
THAT THE EARTH'S AXIS AND TIME WERE ALTERED.

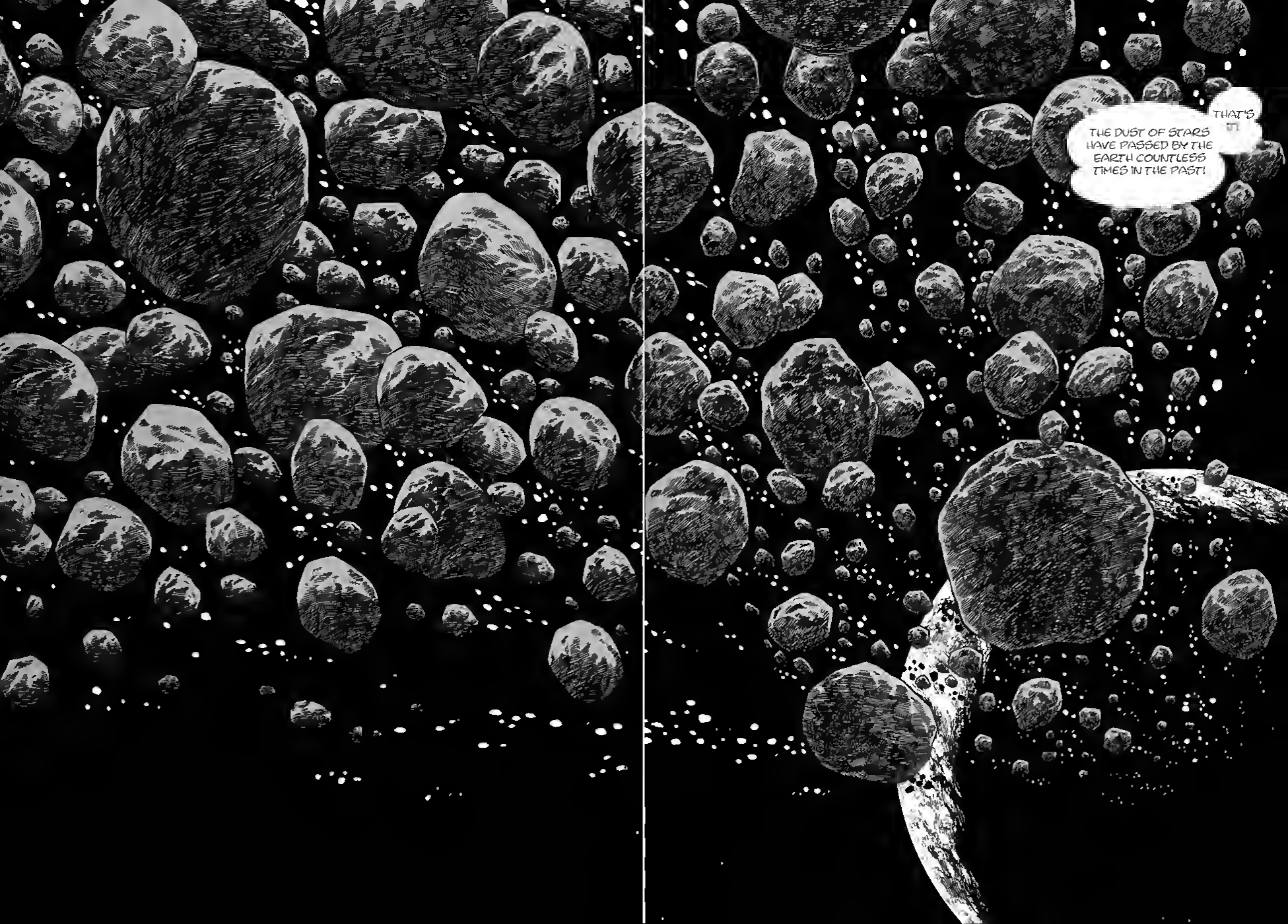
A STUPID HUMAN CATASTROPHE MIXED IN WITH A NATURAL CATASTROPHE FROM SPACE...
THE EARTH SEEMED DEAD...
BUT SOME SURVIVED...

RYU?
YOU SEE NOW...

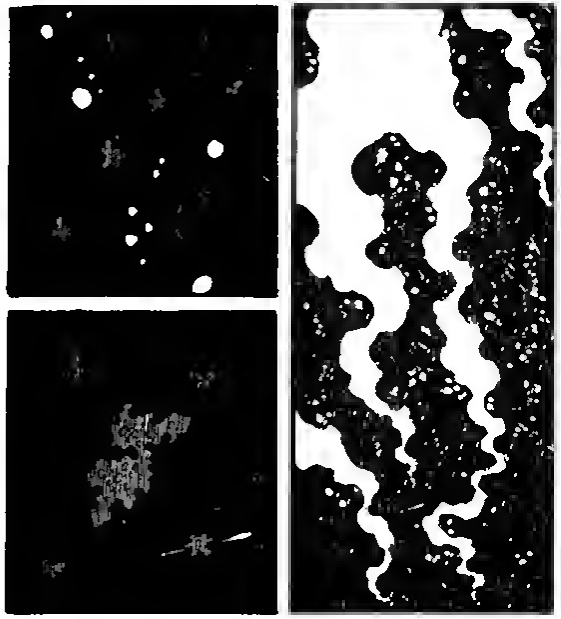
SOME ANIMALS, SOME HUMANS... HAVE INDEED SURVIVED.

MY PARENTS WERE ONE OF THESE SURVIVORS.

WAS NOTHING OTHER THAN A TEST IMPOSED BY HEAVEN TO EARTH AS IT HAS DONE MANY TIMES SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME!
THINKING ABOUT IT...
THIS GIANT CATAST ROPHE...
AND OUT OF THIS HUMANITY, NEW SPECIES LIKE ME WERE BORN.
HUMANITY SURVIVED.

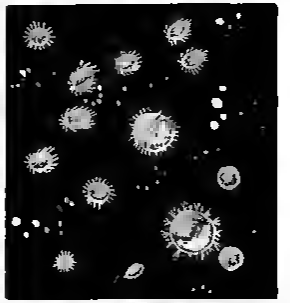

THAT'S IT.
THE DUST OF STARS HAVE PASSED BY THE EARTH COUNTLESS TIMES IN THE PAST!

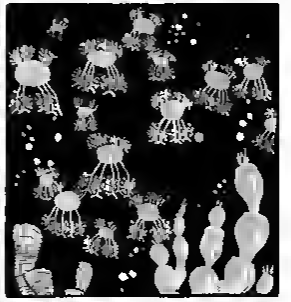
BACK WHEN THE EARTH WASN'T THE EARTH...
WHEN SHE WAS JUST A BALL OF FIRE AND MAGMA..

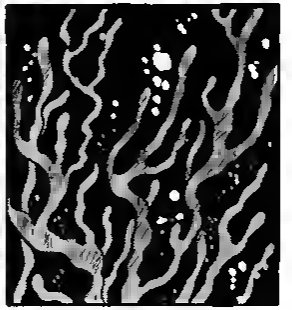


AND...
WHEN SHE SUFFERED FROM TORRENTIAL RAINS...

AND AFTER...
THE TIME SHE WITNESSED THE BIRTH OF UNICELLULAR BEINGS THEN PRIMITIVE FISH AND PLANTS.







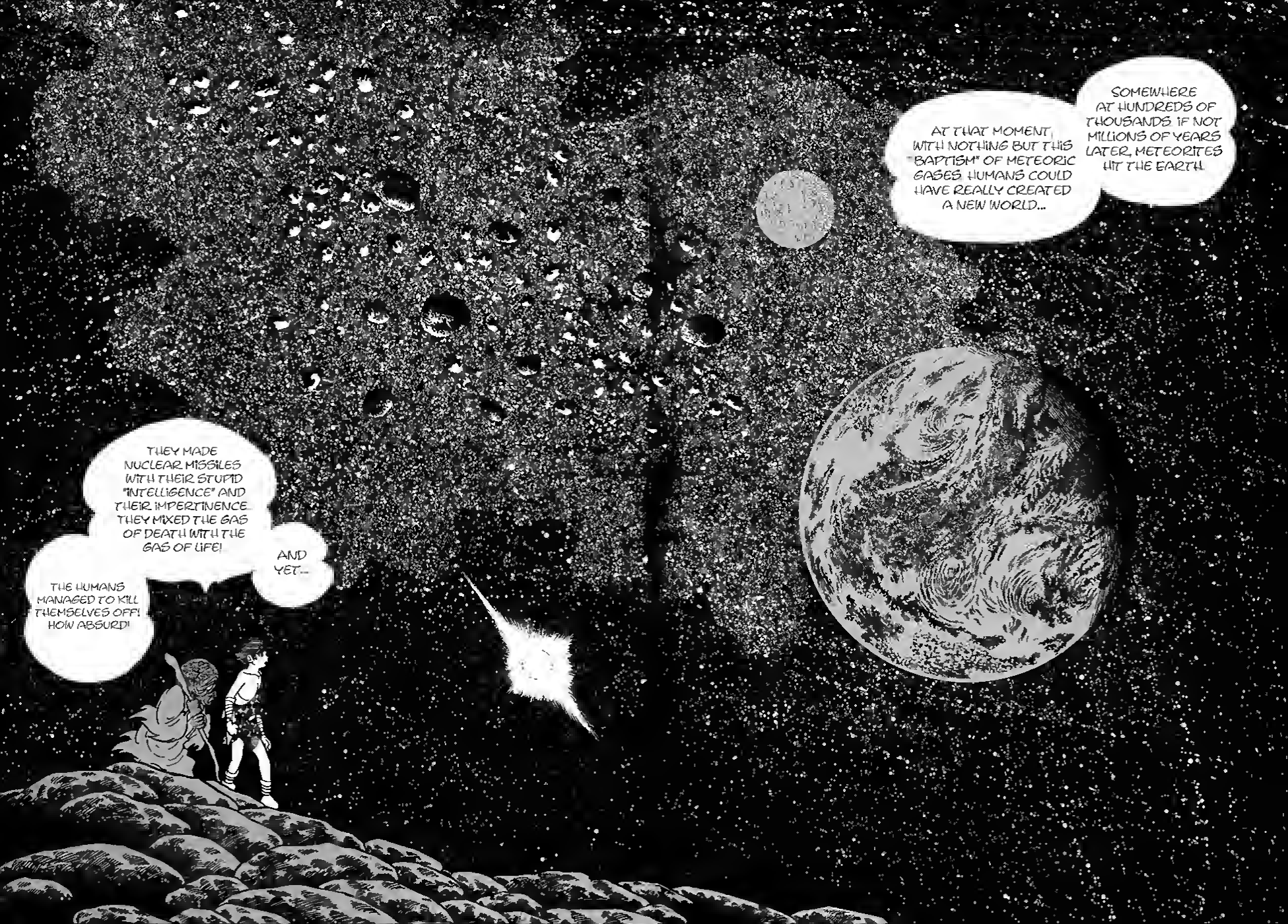
IN THE TIME OF DINOSAURS...

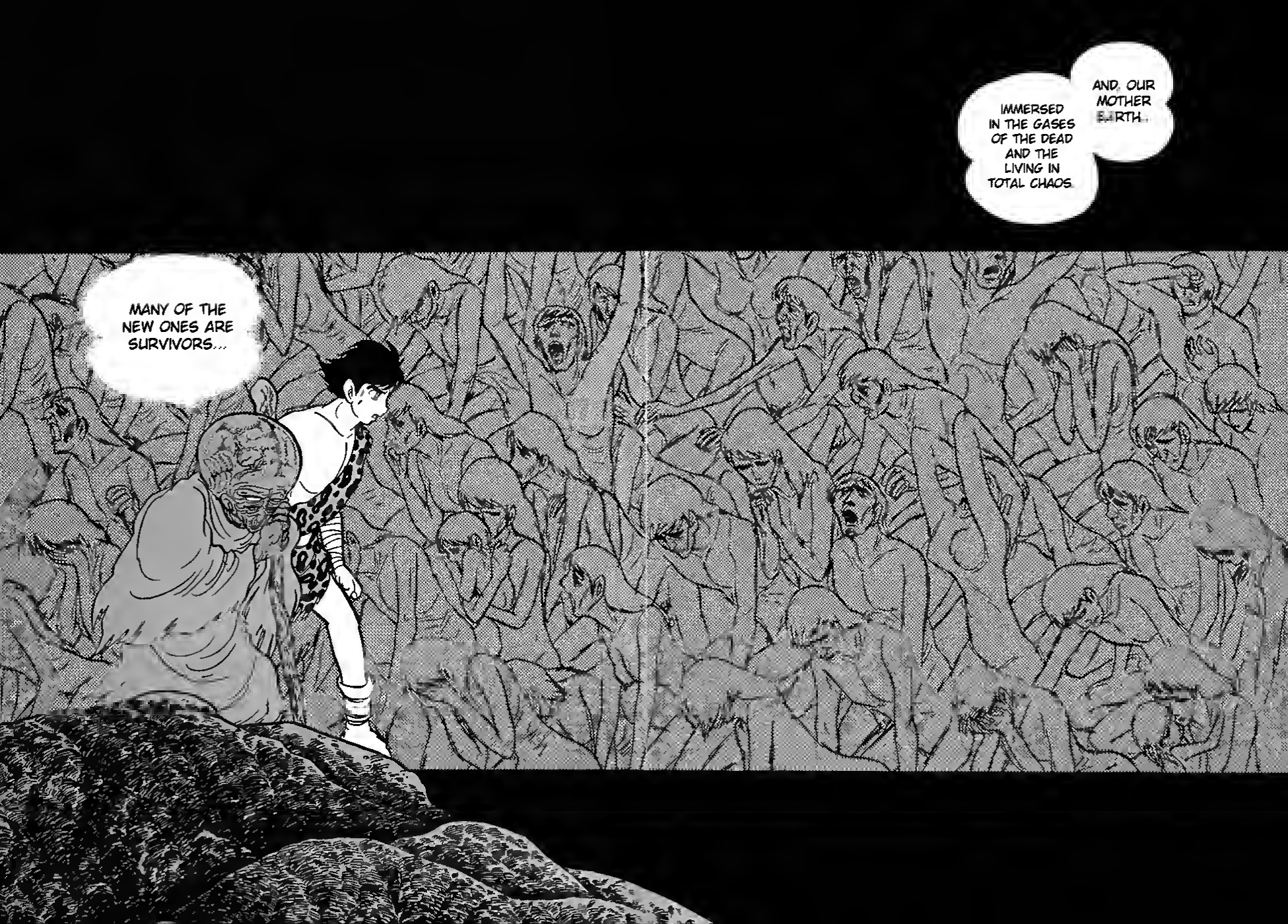
THE METEOR SHOWERS DESTROYED LIFE AND GENERATED NEW ONES.
YES...

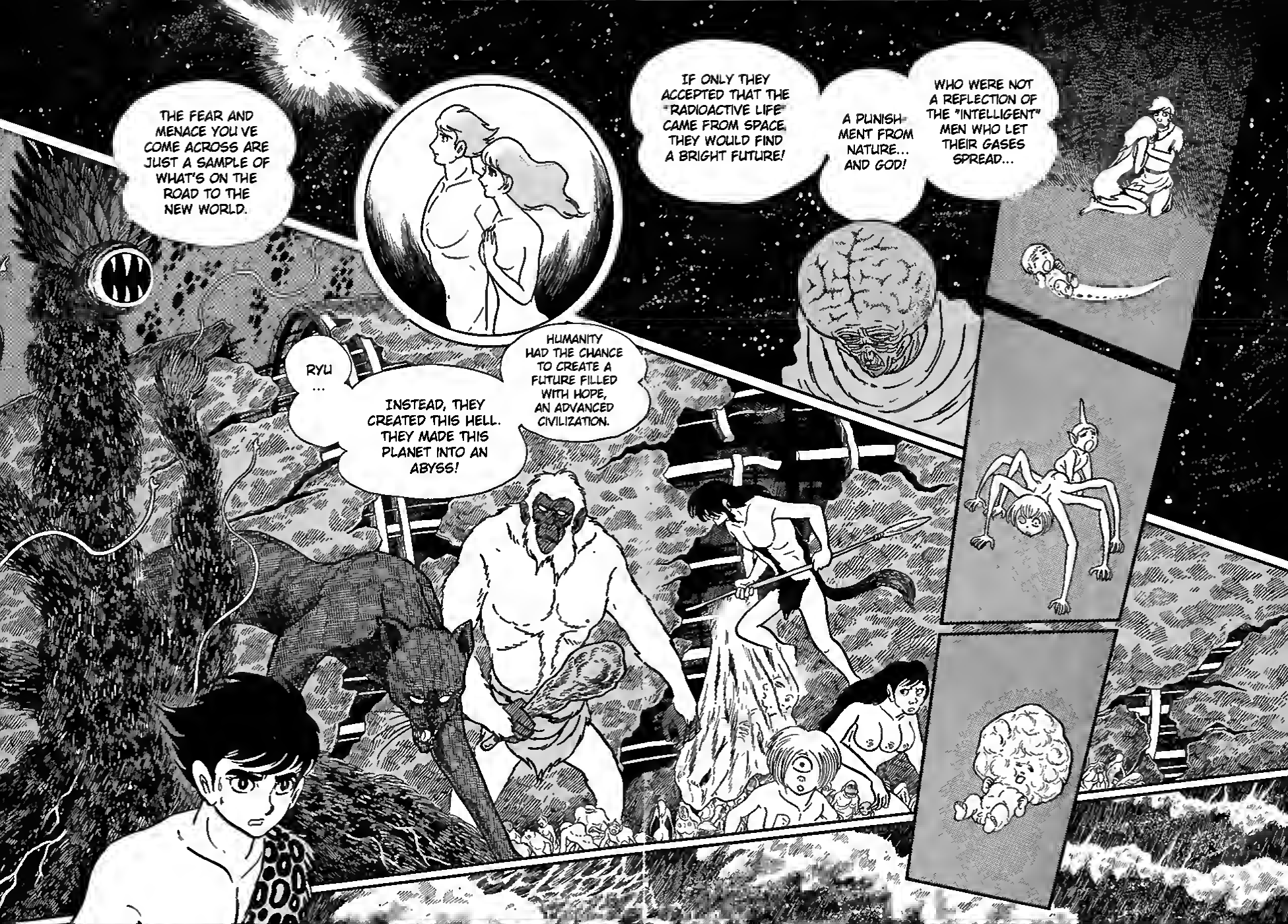
I LIKE TO THINK THAT THE DUST FROM THE UNIVERSE AND THE OIL OF THE METEORITES WERE THE START OF LIFE.

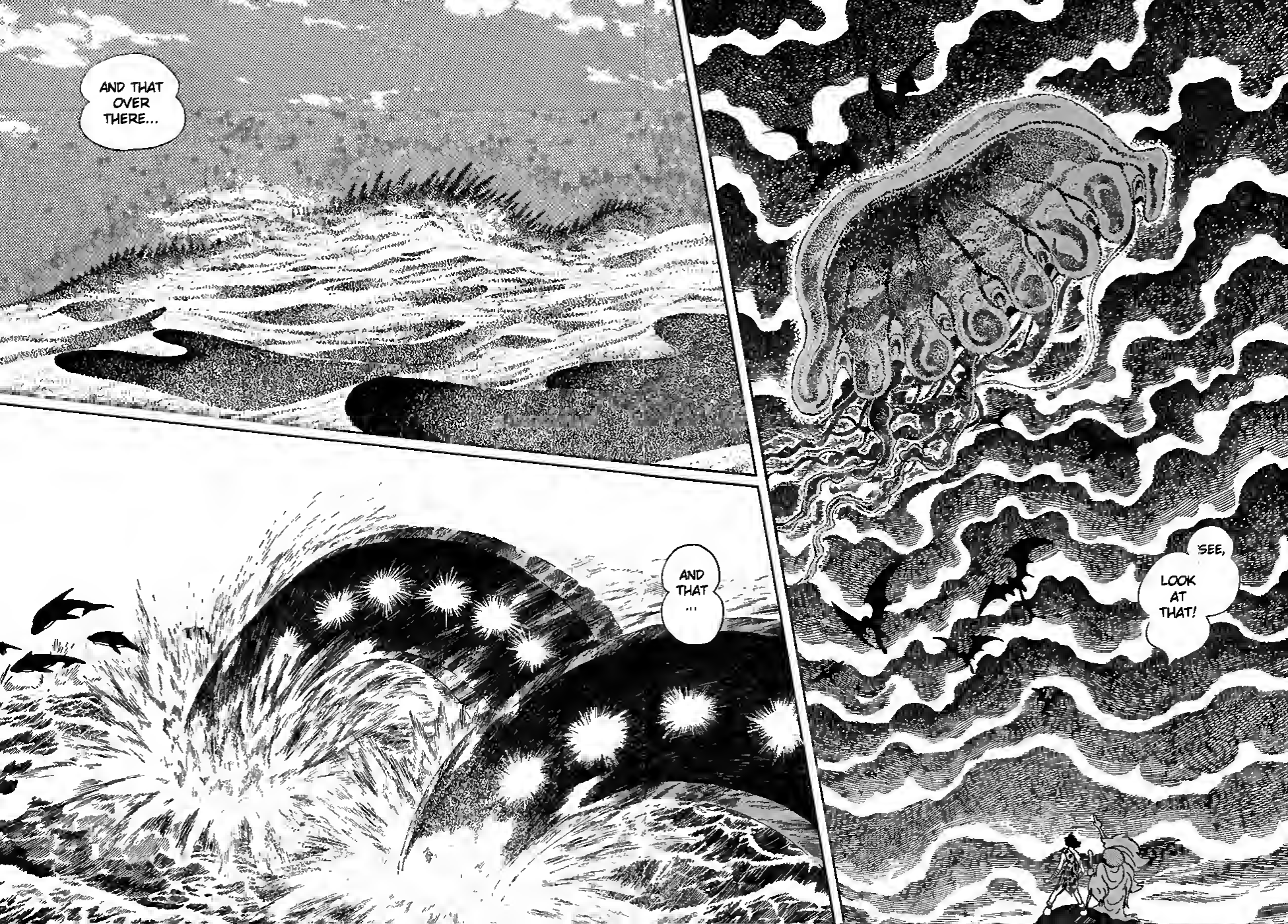
IT WAS THIS GAS. NATURALLY RADIOACTIVE. THAT EVOLVED THESE SPECIES!

OF LEGENDS LIKE THE FLOOD OR ATLANTIS.
WHAT WAS CREATED, REMINDS ME...
THE MEETING BETWEEN THE EARTH AND THE WHAT CAME FROM SPACE, MIXED WITH A THICK GAS...

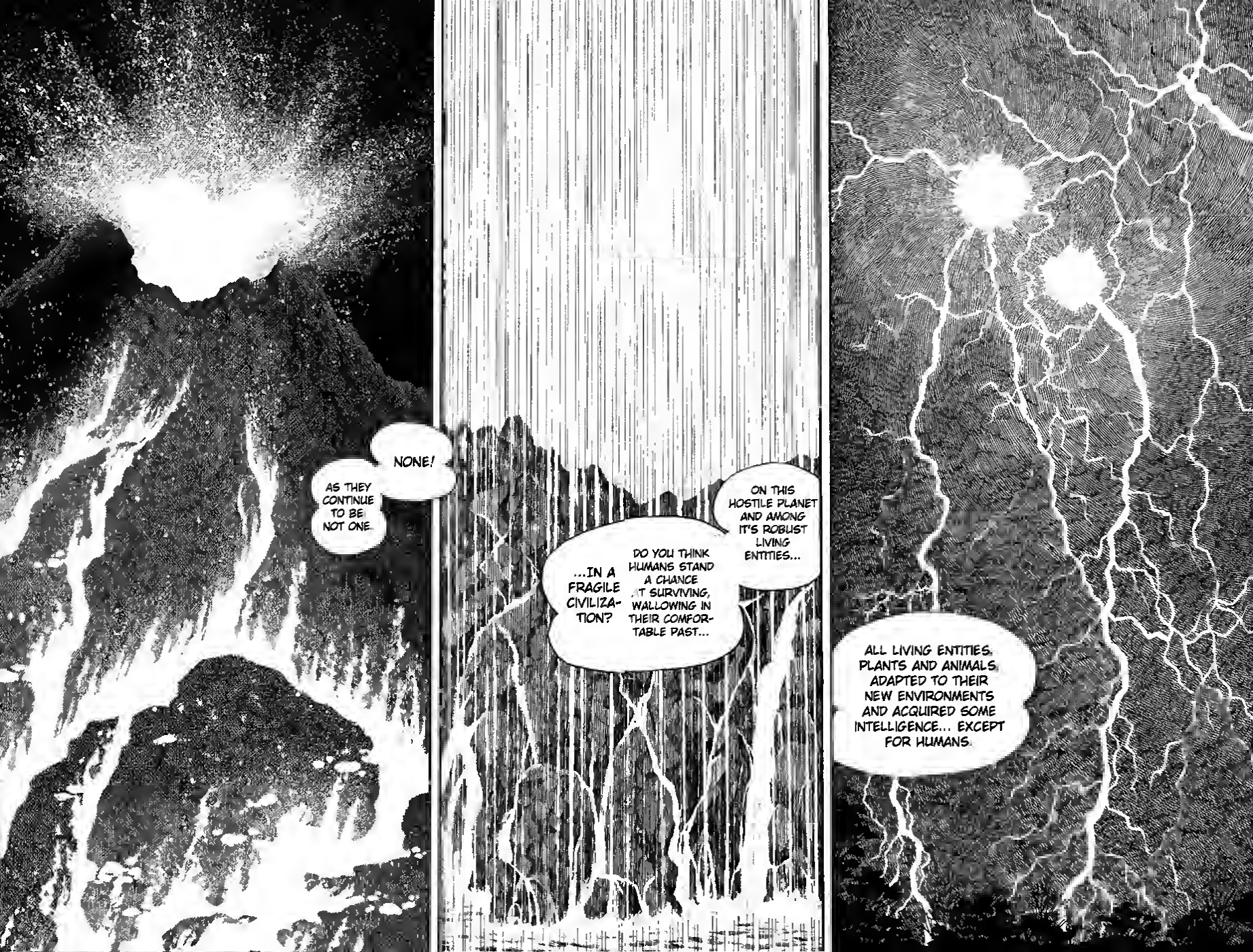

SOMEWHERE AT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS, IF NOT MILLIONS OF YEARS LATER, METEORITES HIT THE EARTH.
AT THAT MOMENT, WITH NOTHING BUT THIS "BAPTISM" OF METEORIC GASES, HUMANS COULD HAVE REALLY CREATED A NEW WORLD...
THEY MADE NUCLEAR MISSILES WITH THEIR STUPID "INTELLIGENCE" AND THEIR IMPERTINENCE. THEY MIXED THE GAS OF DEATH WITH THE GAS OF LIFE!
AND YET...
THE HUMANS MANAGED TO KILL THEMSELVES OFF! HOW ABSURD!


AND, OUR MOTHER EARTH...
IMMERSED IN THE GASES OF THE DEAD AND THE LIVING IN TOTAL CHAOS.
MANY OF THE NEW ONES ARE SURVIVORS...

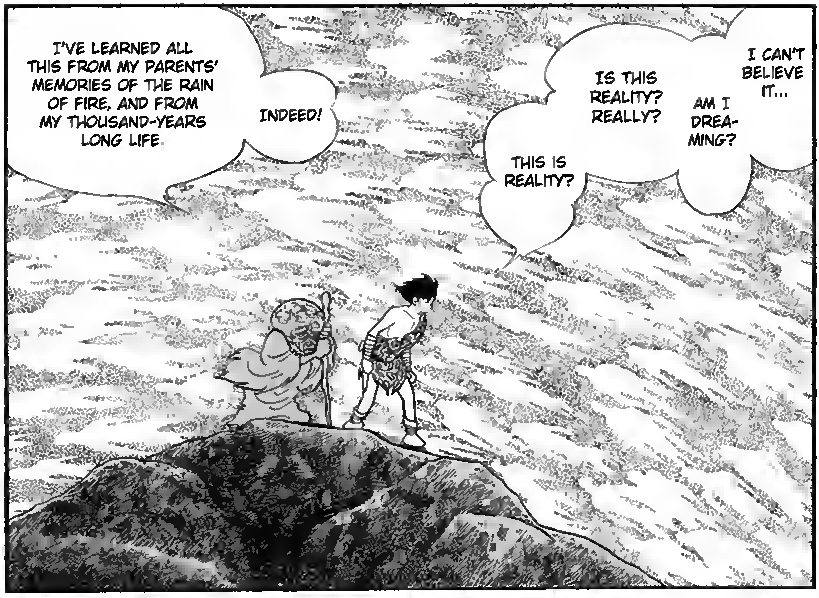

THE FEAR AND MENACE YOU'VE COME ACROSS ARE JUST A SAMPLE OF WHAT'S ON THE ROAD TO THE NEW WORLD.
IF ONLY THEY ACCEPTED THAT THE "RADIOACTIVE LIFE" CAME FROM SPACE, THEY WOULD FIND A BRIGHT FUTURE!
A PUNISHMENT FROM NATURE... AND GOD!
WHO WERE NOT A REFLECTION OF THE "INTELLIGENT" MEN WHO LET THEIR GASES SPREAD...
RYU ...
INSTEAD, THEY CREATED THIS HELL. THEY MADE THIS PLANET INTO AN ABYSS!
HUMANITY HAD THE CHANCE TO CREATE A FUTURE FILLED WITH HOPE, AN ADVANCED CIVILIZATION.

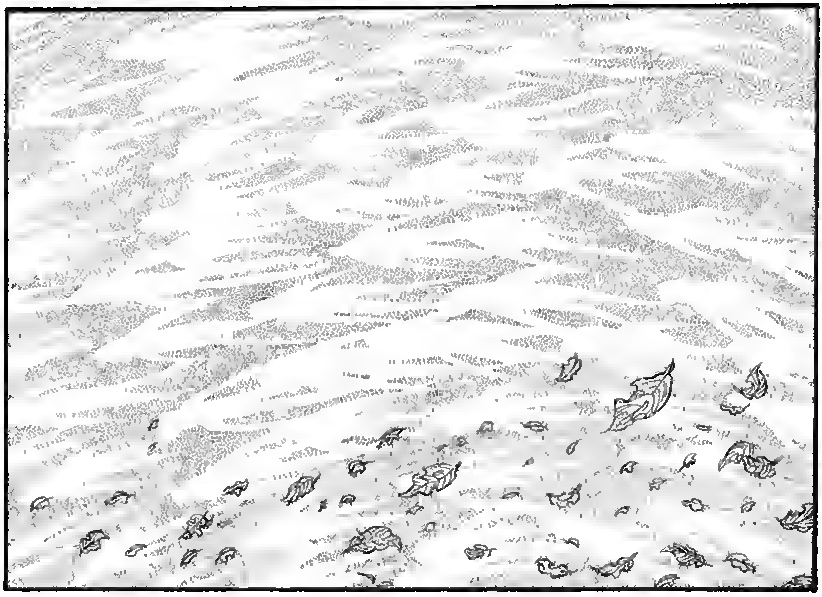

AND THAT OVER THERE...
AND THAT ...
SEE, LOOK AT THAT!

AND THAT THERE.


NONE!
AS THEY CONTINUE TO BE NOT ONE.
...IN A FRAGILE CIVILIZATION?
DO YOU THINK HUMANS STAND A CHANCE AT SURVIVING, WALLOWING IN THEIR COMFORTABLE PAST...
ON THIS HOSTILE PLANET AND AMONG IT'S ROBUST LIVING ENTITIES...
ALL LIVING ENTITIES, PLANTS AND ANIMALS, ADAPTED TO THEIR NEW ENVIRONMENTS AND ACQUIRED SOME INTELLIGENCE... EXCEPT FOR HUMANS.

AND THAT IS YOU, RYU!
A GOD TO GUIDE THE DYING MEN AND WOMEN, ONE TO GIVE THEM ORDERS!
THAT IS WHY HUMANITY NEEDS A "GOD".


I'VE LEARNED ALL THIS FROM MY PARENTS' MEMORIES OF THE RAIN OF FIRE, AND FROM MY THOUSAND-YEARS LONG LIFE.
INDEED!
THIS IS REALITY?
IS THIS REALITY? REALLY?
AM I DREAMING?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

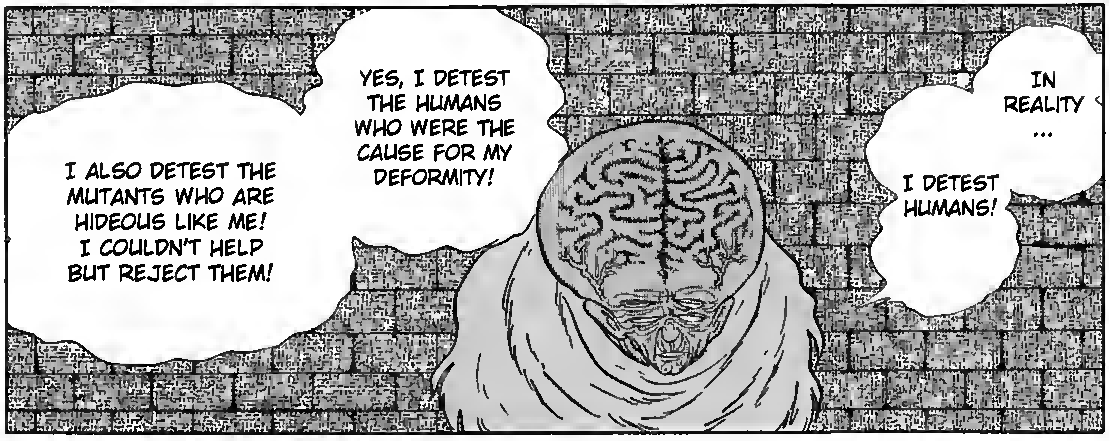


...
ONLY THE FUTURE MATTERS NOW.
WE CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST.
IN ANY CASE...
NO, I CAN'T!
I CAN'T BECOME A "GOD"!
NO!
I CAN'T!
YOU HAVE TO!
YOU WILL BECOME A "GOD", RYU.
RYU!!
YOU MUST!
YOU HAVE TO DO IT!
THE SURVIVAL OF HUMANITY!
THE FUTURE DEPENDS ON YOU ...
AND BELIEVE N MY WORDS.
BE CONFIDENT!
I KNOW OU HAVE THE WILL AND THE POWER TO BECOME A "GOD".
I KNOW YOU'RE THE CHOSEN ONE.
AND YET, I KNOW.
WHY IS THAT!?
LEAVE ME ALONE!!
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO!
I DON'T WANT TO!
A MAN CAN NEVER BECOME A "GOD"!
I'M JUST A HUMAN BEING, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!
NO! I'M JUST A MAN!
NO!
I CAN'T!
IT'S NOT TRUE!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

CALM YOURSELF, RYU
AND LISTEN TO ME.
IT'S TRUE, FOR NOW, YOU'RE JUST A SIMPLE HUMAN.
BUT SOON, YOU'LL BE ...
LISTEN WELL.
I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR FEAR OF BECOMING A SUPERIOR BEING.
I KNOW YOU'RE AFRAID OF MAKING A MISTAKE.
BUT THINK ABOUT IT.
WHAT IS A "GOD"?
IN THE BEGINNING, A MAN
IN THE MISTS OF TIME, FOLKS LOST IN THE DARKNESS WERE GUIDED BY THE LIGHT
AND THE ONE WHO CARRIED THAT FIRE BECAME "GOD", RIGHT?
THE ONE WHO HAD THE ANSWERS FOR THOSE WHO WERE DISTRAUGHT ..
BECAME "GOD" FOR ALL THE LOST PEOPLE!

THEY ALL STARTED OUT AS MEN.
JESUS CHRIST, MOHAMMED, BUDDHA ...
WHETHER IT BE A MAN OR AN OBJECT, "GOD" IS AN ENTITY WHICH AROUSES ADORATION.
THE "GOD" OF THE PEASANTS WAS A HOE. FOR THE CARPENTERS, TOOLS...
A SIMPLE SCREWDRIVER CAN BE A GOD TO MECHANICS.
YOU SEE NOW?
I...
I'VE ...
I'VE ...
I PLAYED GOD ONCE, AND IT WAS A MISTAKE!

YOU FORCED YOUR DECISIONS ON THEM! AND THAT'S HOW YOU STOLE THEIR WILL TO SURVIVE BY THEIR OWN MEANS!
YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF PEOPLE USING THEIR FEAR AND IGNORANCE ..
YOU CENSORED THEM ...
CAN YOU SAY YOU'VE NEVER MADE ANY JUDGMENT IN ERROR?
THOSE YOU HAVE GUIDED WERE SAVED?
AND YOU...
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

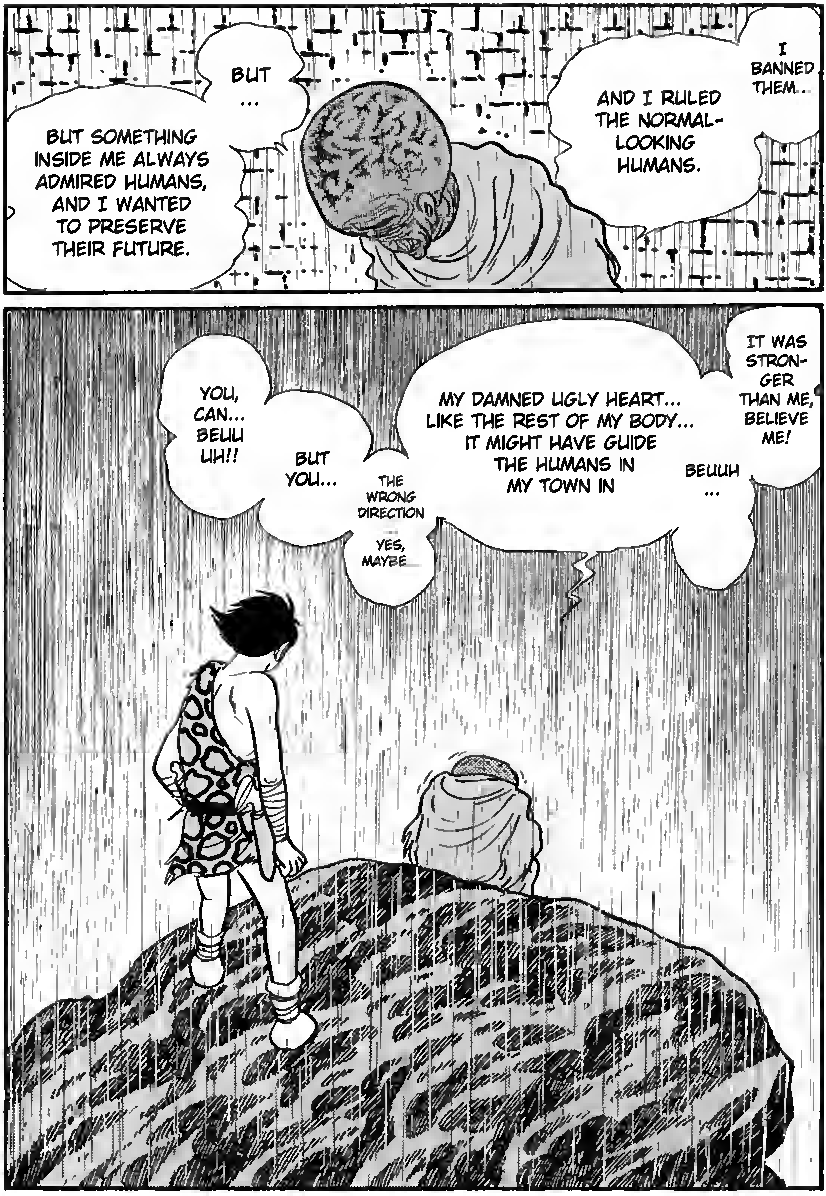

I ALSO DETEST THE MUTANTS WHO ARE HIDEOUS LIKE ME! I COULDN'T HELP BUT REJECT THEM!
YES, I DETEST THE HUMANS WHO WERE THE CAUSE FOR MY DEFORMITY!
IN REALITY ...
I DETEST HUMANS!

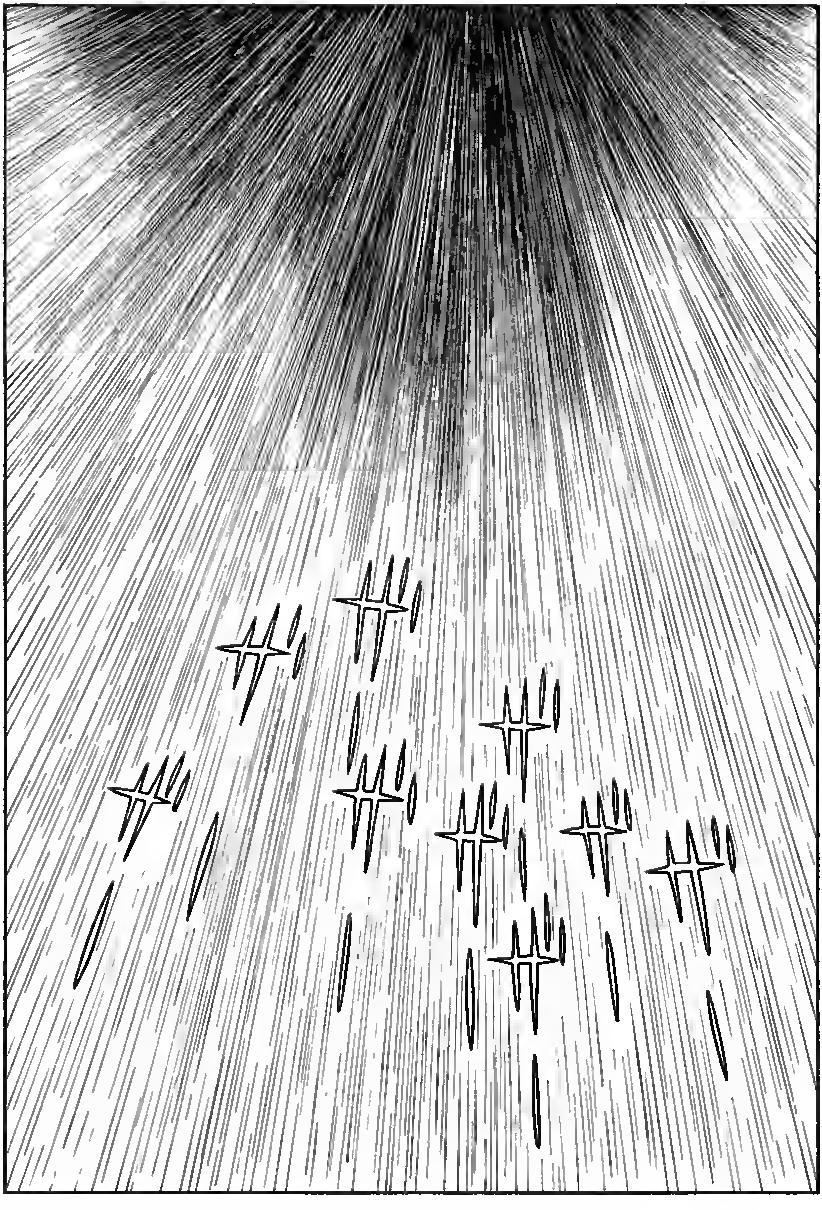
AS WE REMAIN HUMAN, THE ERRORS WE MAKE CAN BE FORGIVEN, BECAUSE HUMANS ARE IMPERFECT BEINGS, WHO AT ANY TIME CAN MAKE A MISTAKE.

BUT A "GOD" DOESN'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A SINGLE ERROR. SO IF A MAN PRETENDING TO BE GOD TAKES A WRONG TURN, IT'LL BE AN IRREVERSIBLE TRAGEDY FOR EVERYONE! OF COURSE, A SCREWDRIVER CAN BECOME A "GOD" FOR SURE. BUT GUNS AND MISSILES CAN BE "GODS" TOO!

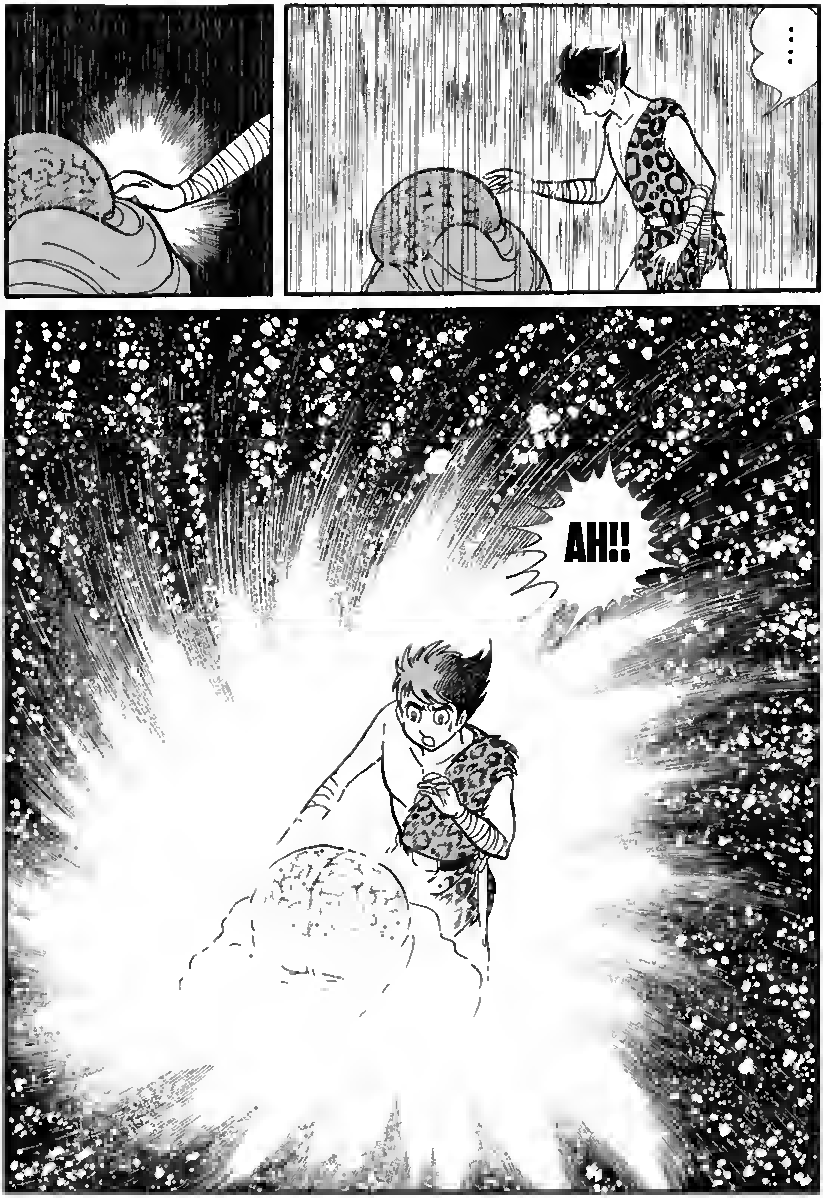
THOSE WHO POSSESS AND MANIPULATE THEM IN TURN BECOME "GODS"! AND, THOSE WHO HAD FAITH IN THESE "GODS" DIED NEEDLESSLY, VICTIMS OF THEIR TOOLS THEY CALLED MISSILES AND BOMBS! HISTORY SHOWS IT CLEAR AS DAY.

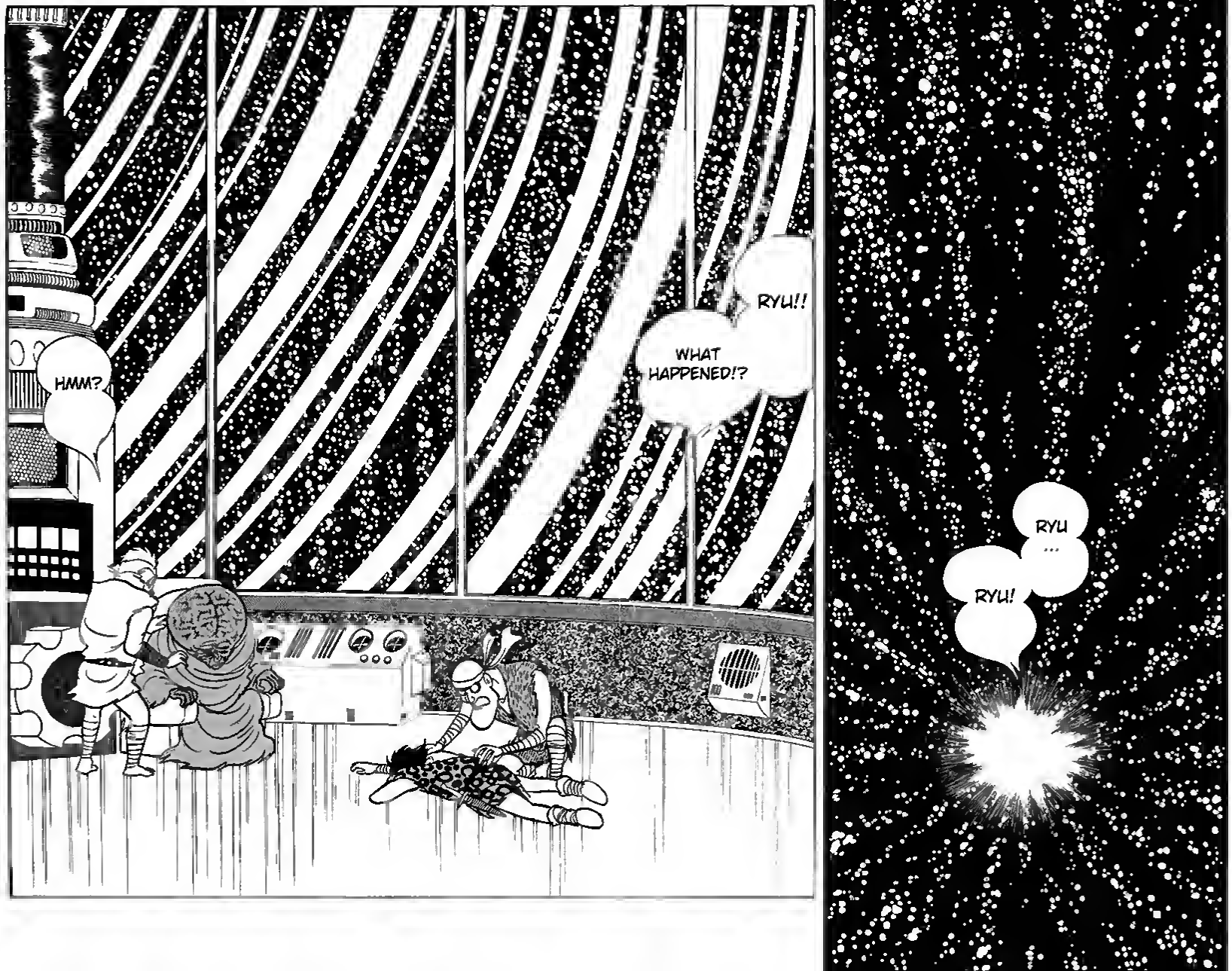
AND WHAT RELIGION COULD STOP SUCH MADNESS? WHICH ONE COULD HAVE SAVED HUMANITY? NONE! THEY DID NOTHING! NOTHING!! ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!!


I BANNED THEM..
AND I RULED THE NORMAL-LOOKING HUMANS.
BUT ...
BUT SOMETHING INSIDE ME ALWAYS ADMIRED HUMANS, AND I WANTED TO PRESERVE THEIR FUTURE.
IT WAS STRONGER THAN ME, BELIEVE ME!
BEUUH ...
MY DAMNED UGLY HEART... LIKE THE REST OF MY BODY... IT MIGHT HAVE GUIDE THE HUMANS IN MY TOWN IN
THE WRONG DIRECTION
YES, MAYBE...
BUT YOU...
YOU, CAN... BEUU UH!!

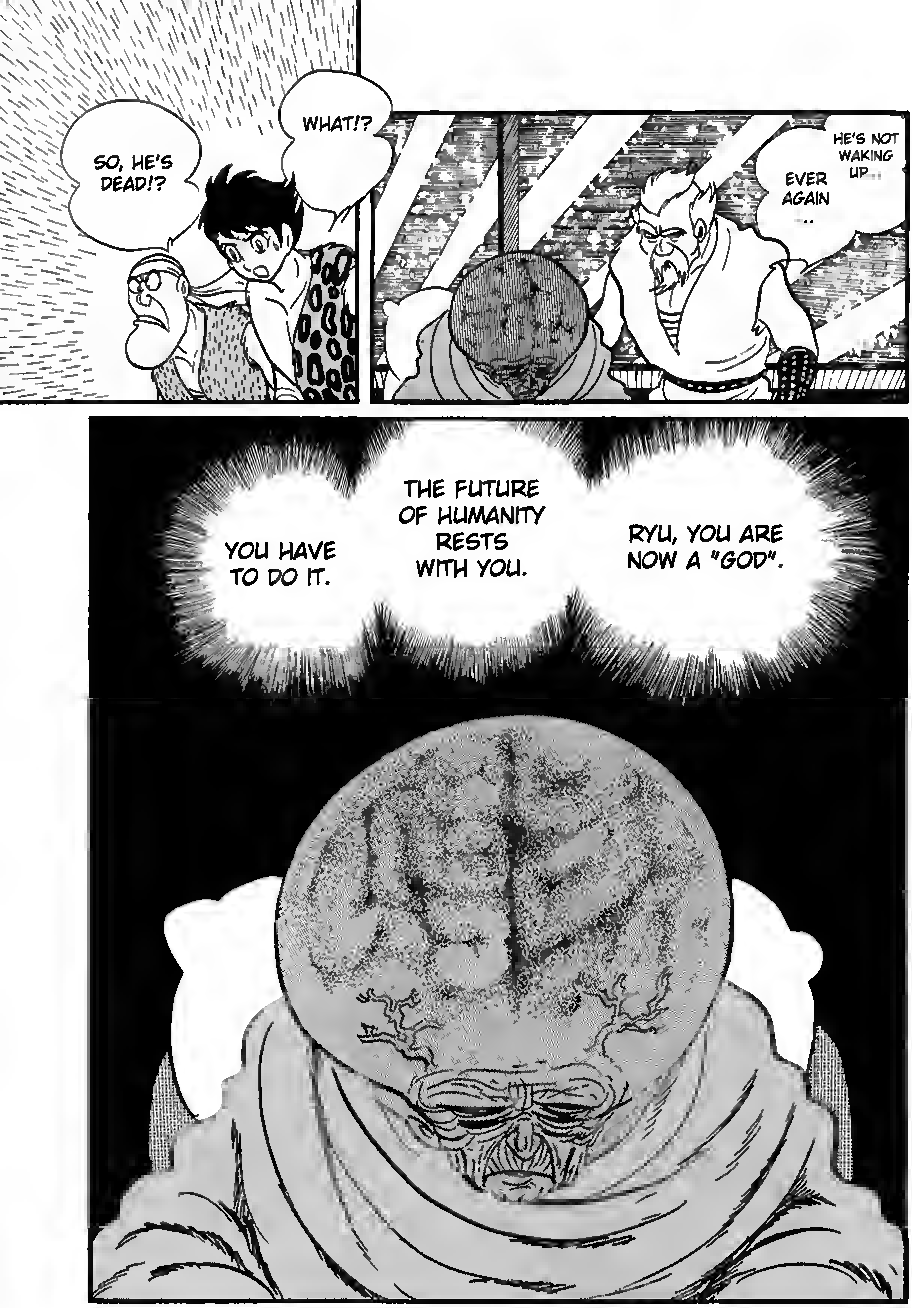


AH...


...
AH!!

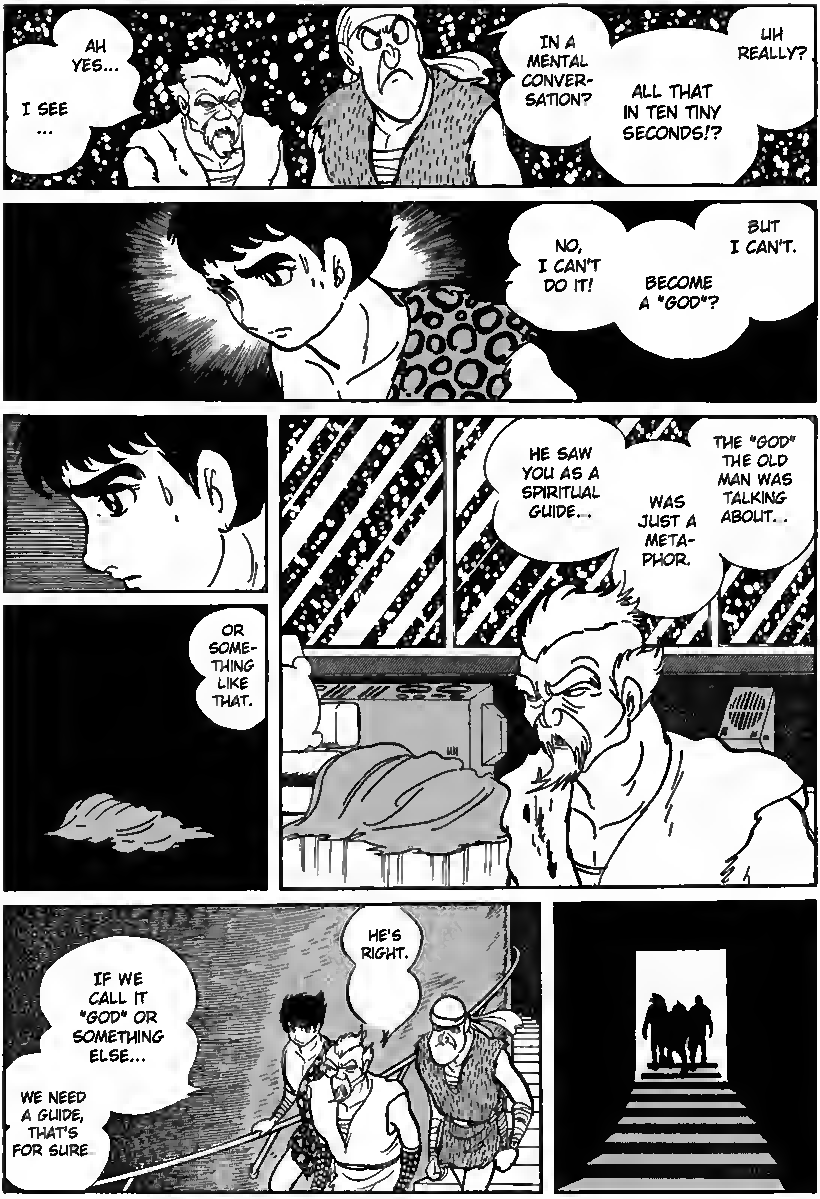

HMM?
RYU!!
WHAT HAPPENED!?
RYU ...
RYU!

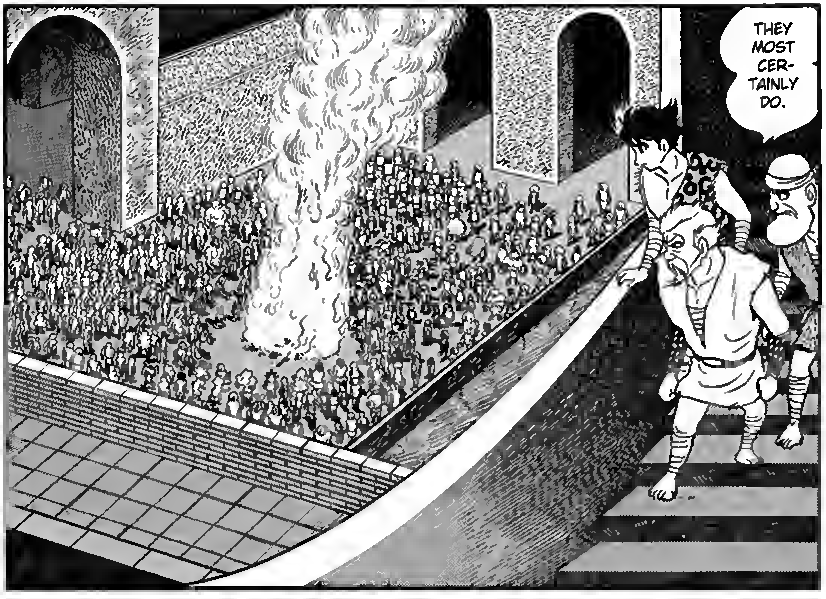
AH! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YOU WERE LOOKING STRAIGHT INTO THE OLD MAN'S EYES AND THEN BOOM!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
HUH?
RYU?
AH ...
SO, IT WAS ...
HOW LONG WAS I UNCONS-CIOUS?
OH! IT WAS JUST FOR AN INSTANT ...
NOT EVEN TEN SECOND ...
HMM ...
IS THE OLD GUY STILL ASLEEP?
ONLY ...?


SO, HE'S DEAD!?
WHAT!?
HE'S NOT WAKING UP...
EVER AGAIN...
RYU, YOU ARE NOW A "GOD".
THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY RESTS WITH YOU.
YOU HAVE TO DO IT.

BECAUSE YOU CAN!
YOU'LL DO IT!
WELL ...
NOW TELL US EVERY-THING, RYU.
WHAT DID THIS OLD BASTARD TELL YOU?

EH?
A STORY ABOUT DEATH...
AND, LIFE.
FINALLY, THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MADNESS OF THE EARTH THE TRUTH ACCORDING TO HIM.
HOW HUMANITY CAN SURVIVE, AND..
ON THE FUTURE OF HUMA-NITY.


AH YES...
I SEE ...
IN A MENTAL CONVERSATION?
ALL THAT IN TEN TINY SECONDS!?
UH REALLY?
NO, I CAN'T DO IT!
BECOME A "GOD"?
BUT I CAN'T.
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
HE SAW YOU AS A SPIRITUAL GUIDE...
WAS JUST A METAPHOR.
THE "GOD" THE OLD MAN WAS TALKING ABOUT..
IF WE CALL IT "GOD" OR SOMETHING ELSE...
WE NEED A GUIDE, THAT'S FOR SURE
HE'S RIGHT.


THEY MOST CER-TAINLY DO.

FORMED A GROUP!
MUTANTS AND HUMANS...
IN ANY CASE, THEY...
OUR WORLD WOULD INVOLVE A MIX BETWEEN THE TWO RACES.
NOT ONE ...
OR THE OTHER ...
NEITHER OF THEM STAND A CHANCE OF SURVIVING IN THIS CRUEL WORLD!
IF THESE TWO RACES DON'T WORK TOGETHER...
AND THEY WILL GIVE BIRTH TO THE HUMANS OF TOMORROW.

AND THAT'S YOU, YOU MUST LEAD US RYU.
SO, THERE NEEDS TO BE SOMEONE TO LEAD THEM.
WE HAVE TO PROGRESS TOGETHER, HAND IN HAND.
YOU WILL TAKE ON THE ROLE OF A GUIDE.
YOU ARE THE LINK BETWEEN THE TWO SPECIES... I DON'T KNOW HOW... BUT YES, IT'S YOUR DESTINY!
LIKE THE OLD MAN SAID...
IN THAT CASE, I'LL DO IT.
OKAY ...

UNTIL ANOTHER GUIDE APPEARS.
AND EVEN IF IT ISN'T ME, I'LL PLAY THE ROLE...
SOMEONE HAS TO DO IT...
I'M ASKING FOR YOUR HELP, YOU AND THE OTHERS.
OF COURSE!
I'LL HELP YOU RYU!
YES!
BUT ...
I CAN'T DO THIS JOB ALONE.
GOD ...
CON-DOR ...
I WILL GUIDE THE PEOPLE WHO GATHER HERE...
BY ENGRAVING THE OLD MAN'S WORDS INTO MY HEART, I WILL MAKE THE LIGHT OF THE LIGHTHOUSE ONE OF HOPE!
OF COURSE I'LL DO IT!
ALRIGHT I'LL DO IT!

TO BUILD A FUTURE ...
WE'LL FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT...
AND WE'LL UNITE OUR FORCES ...
FOR HUMANITY!

リュウの道 5 — 完 —

イラストコレクション

来週号から
特別新連載！

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リュウの道

空前のスケールをほこる超大作未来魔境まんが

恐怖の魔境にさまよいこんだリュウ少年！
つぎつぎと奇怪な事件が…！

石森章太郎

講談社「週刊少年マガジン」1969年3月23日第13号

講談社「週刊少年マガジン」1969年3月23日第13号

読者のみなさまへ

「石ノ森章太郎萬画大全集」には、年代の古い作品が多数収録されています。それらの作品の中には、今日の人権擁護の見地に照らせば、不適切との指摘を受ける可能性がある語句や表現が用いられている箇所があります。石ノ森章太郎氏は、いつもその時代の風を読みながら新しい作品、表現形態に挑戦し続けた作家であり、差別を意図して描いたことはありませんでした。その作品の中には、その当時の風俗や、時代背景が反映されていて、現在の共通認識とは大きな違いがあるものがあります。私たちが今回、この「石ノ森章太郎萬画大全集」をできるだけ当時のままの形での出版を心がけようとしている背景には、作者が故人であり、作品の改訂がすでに不可能であることと、原作の世界観を尊重したものであります。そしてまた、差別的な表現の問題を考えていく上でも決して適切な処置ではないと考えるからです。石ノ森章太郎氏は、1992年3月に発足した「コミック表現の自由を守る会」の代表として、「差別表現問題」にも積極的に取り組んだ萬画家でした。「有害コミック規制運動」に端を発した過剰な自主規制が、物事の本質を隠蔽してしまう可能性があるだけでなく、コミック表現の可能性にも大きな影響を及ぼそうとしていたからです。もちろん、石ノ森章太郎氏は、差別的な表現の推進者ではなく、今回の全集を通して読まれた方はすでにお分かりのように、作品には、ゆるぎないヒューマニズムが根底に流れていることを感じていただけると思います。先人の努力もあり、現在は、過去に比較すれば、差別問題への認識がかなり進歩を遂げたと言えるかもしれません。しかしながら、差別が全くなくなったわけではありません。今回の全集をきっかけに、過去にさまざまな差別が存在し、いまだ解決しない問題があることを認識し、差別という問題へのご理解を一層深めていただけるようにお願いいたします。

石森プロ／角川書店

石ノ森章太郎萬画大全集

リュウの道 5

石森章太郎

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